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THE INDEPENDENT

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Tuesday 14 April 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,584

Blunkett gets tough with the militants

By Judith Judd
Education Editor

DAVID Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday confronted heckling teachers and told them bluntly to stop shouting and join the Government's standards campaign.

In a tough speech to the National Union of Teachers, the biggest teachers' union, he dismissed left-wing delegates as a "minority of a minority". He appealed to all teachers to stop seeing themselves as victims and to be partners in improving children's life chances.

Ignoring the shouted protests of delegates at the conference in Blackpool, Mr Blunkett set out a long list of the Government's achievements in education over the last 11 months, including a promise to spend more than £2bn to improve buildings and raise standards.

Raising his voice, Mr Blunkett said defiantly: "Shouting won't make a difference. All you do is put off decent people who want to go into the teaching profession. The comfort is you are a very tiny minority."

There were cries of "Not enough", as Mr Blunkett detailed the Government's achievements and the extra money promised for education, including £1.3bn to repair school buildings. Some delegates sneered when he played a video explaining how the Government intended to reduce teachers' workload by providing off-the-peg lesson plans and examples of good practice on the national grid for learning.

Members of both of the biggest teachers unions – the NUT and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers – have voted for action, not including strikes, over the growing burden of paperwork in schools.

Mr Blunkett, who announced a series of proposals to reduce school red tape, warned teachers against taking industrial action over workloads: "Industrial action is not acceptable because it is bound to affect our standards agenda." He insisted that teachers must hold their heads up and urged them to believe in themselves.

Outrage over secret deal

A TEACHER'S union leader yesterday launched an attack on the leader of a rival union who is secretly trying to organise an education action zone in a consortium with Asian bankers.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) is trying to construct a consortium with the Commission for Racial Equality, Commercial Union, the Nuffield Foundation and exam board Edexcel.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said: "If I had done what Peter Smith had done I would quite rightly be summarily dismissed. For ATL to be conniving at a scheme which could lead to the undermining of national pay and conditions is outragous and deplorable."

At a briefing later, he admitted: "There is still some way to go to translate good intentions into good practice. That is partly because of this victim syndrome: People do think they are very hard done by – that makes it very difficult to relate to them even when you are make positive moves."

He made it clear that the Government's daily literacy hour and education action zones to raise standards in deprived areas were non-negotiable, despite the conference's opposition to them.

Mr Blunkett told the conference that they would not put *up for a second with standards* for their children which some people seem prepared to put up with for other people's children. He said: "You can be part of a real learning age when inequality and injustice can be set aside because at last we have given children real life chances."

The Government had not been able to wave a magic wand as many people would have liked but it had found an extra £835m to save the education service, he said.

Despite some heckling, Mr Blunkett's reception was much *better than that he received* three years ago when he was jostled by left-wing delegates. Moderate teachers applauded him warmly.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said that the Government's credit balance was fairly impressive but he won a standing ovation from left-wing delegates when he said it was unfair to name and shame failing schools.

Mr McAvoy said that the union's action over workload would go ahead before the end of the month, but he hoped it would be *limited* while he continued to press the Government for more concessions.

Will Reese of Coventry, a member of the Socialist Teachers' Alliance, questioned Mr Blunkett's assertion that the Government was not a threat to teachers. "There remains a persistent thread of criticism about teachers. It almost seems as if they are being singled out."

Leading article, page 16

Apprentice Boys try out a new tune

In the first loyalist rally since Friday's peace deal, the Apprentice Boys march past Ormeau Road bridge in Belfast, where police yesterday prevented their entering Catholic areas. **Report, page 2, Letters, page 16** Photograph: AP

Cash cuts mean 007 gets his P45

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

SPARE a thought for poor old 007 and his colleagues. The number of spooks and other personnel employed by Her Majesty's Security and Intelligence Services has dropped by a quarter since 1992.

The latest figures, provided by the Cabinet Office, show a fall in the number of people employed by the Security Service, Secret Intelligence Service, and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), from 11,110 in 1992-93 to 8,448 this year.

The reduction follows the break-up of the Soviet empire, along with a decline in concern about the threat posed by subversion, accompanied by two cessations of IRA activity.

However, in a clear effort to justify its continuing existence, the Security Service, MI5, successfully lobbied ministers for agreement that it should be allowed to divert under-used resources to helping the police and Customs with the expanding threat from serious crime.

That role was embodied in statute by the Conservative government, with Labour approval, and it appears to have staunched the cuts in staff numbers.

The decline in the role of the services has been matched by two phenomena – a marked reduction in the number of security scandals, and the greater openness of the services themselves.

The 1960s, 70s and 80s are littered with reports on security lapses and scandals, including the cases of Vassall, Profumo, Lambton, Blunt, Prime and Bettaney – not to mention the allegations made by the former MI5 officer, Peter Wright, *that Security Service* personnel had conspired against Harold Wilson when he was prime minister.

Staff cuts have also been matched by a cutback in overtime, down 38 per cent since 1992; perhaps the most significant indication of reduced activity.

The most curious element of the current year's treasury supply estimate for the Security and Intelligence Services, is an estimated capital budget of £144,535,000.

Given that both MI5 and MI6 have in recent years obtained prime-site headquarters buildings overlooking the *Thames, at Lambeth and Vauxhall bridges*, it is not clear what "works and equipment" could be costing so much, unless GCHQ's eavesdropping requires new satellites.

No longer required, page 4

Britain gets rate rise warning from IMF

By John Willcock

THE Bank of England could be forced to raise interest rates again to curb inflation unless Britain's consumer boom slows, the International Monetary Fund warned yesterday.

The IMF's latest twice-yearly *World Economic Outlook* predicted that inflation in Britain would hit 2.9 per cent during the current year, compared to 2.8 per cent last year, before falling back to 2.6 per cent in 1999.

At the same time, however, economic growth is forecast to slide to 2.3 per cent this year from 3.3 per cent last year, slowing to 2.1 per cent in 1999.

This makes the IMF slightly more optimistic on growth than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which released its own report last week forecasting growth below 2 per cent, and was more pessimistic on inflation. The OECD said there was no need for a rate rise, but added that the Bank of England faced a very difficult decision on rates.

The IMF said yesterday that interest rates would have to rise if domestic demand did not moderate sufficiently to ensure inflation was kept under control. *But if signs emerge of a sharp* slowing of growth rates then monetary conditions would have to be relaxed, the Fund added.

"Striking the right balance for monetary policy in these circumstances is a difficult challenge," the report said.

Any pressure to raise interest rates, even over the short term, is likely to alarm exporters who say the current strength of the pound is already making it hard for them to compete in overseas markets.

Last week there was some relief after the Bank of England's *monetary policy committee* decided to leave interest rates at 7.25 per cent. But the committee gave no indication of the future direction of the rates.

Michael Mussa, the IMF director *of research, said that ster*ling should eventually start falling back against other European currencies – although it was not clear when.

The report, published ahead of Wednesday's meeting of finance ministers of the G7 group of leading industrial nations in Washington, also said that Asia's financial turmoil will slow down global economic growth this year but the threat to future advances is limited.

IMF world view, page 20

Today's news

Coal boss dies
Sir Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board during the miners' strike, has died. **Page 3**

Courting trouble
Health managers could be taken to court if hospitals fail to provide adequate care for patients. **Page 4**

Broken promise
The Government has broken a vow to give special protection against quarrying to the Forest of Dean. **Page 7**

Ben Elton attacks Blair's obsession with cool

By Kate Watson-Smyth

BEN ELTON became the latest star to attack Tony Blair's apparent obsession with image when he launched a broadside yesterday against the Prime Minister's crusade for a Cool Britannia.

The comedian, who was recently pictured smiling with Labour's glitterati at 10 Downing Street, yesterday urged Mr Blair to give it a rest.

His outburst, in the forthcoming issue of the *Radio Times*, follows comments by several personalities, including Alan McGee, head of Creation Records, and Damon Albarn, of the Britpop band Blur, that the Government has failed to keep its promises.

Elton, until now regarded as one of the Government's staunchest supporters, said: "The most gruesome aspect of the Cool Britannia thing is the way the politicians are trying to latch on to it.

"It's sad, it really is. Leaders should never, ever try to look cool – that's for dictators. The obsession with cool is getting entirely out of hand."

In the article, entitled "Cool Britannia? What a load of Rubbish", Elton said: "The whole country is collapsing under a pile of labels. The Prime Minster has publicly stated that he wants to rebrand Britain. But the truth is that you can't buy cool and you can't create it with a label.

"And what, I should like to know, is so great about being cool anyway?"

He added that the celebration of cool was a destructive force and a source of trouble.

"Uncool people never hurt anybody – all they do is collect stamps, read science fiction books and stand on the end of railway platforms staring at the trains."

Then he rounded on the politicians themselves, accusing them of trying be cool to attract the voters.

"I don't mind Radio One trying to be trendy, but I can do without the Labour Party trying to strut its funky stuff. I did not vote Labour because they've heard of Oasis and nobody is going to vote Tory because William Hague has a baseball cap."

The comedian, famed for his attacks on Margaret Thatcher during the Eighties, warned the Government to watch its step.

"The present Government should be very careful: style is not substitute for substance.

Politicians have a tough job ... [and] should not make life even more difficult for themselves by committing the terrible mistake of trying to look cool."

Ben Elton lets rip at the Labour Party in the latest issue of the *Radio Times*

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INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ● CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 ● TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 ● LETTERS, P16 ● SPORT, P 22 ● FULL CONTENTS, P2

1mg

SILK CUT ULTRA IS LOW IS SILK CUT ULTRA

PROTECT CHILDREN: DON'T LET THEM BREATHE YOUR SMOKE

Chief Medical Officers' Warning 1mg Tar 0.1mg Nicotine

TOMORROW

- No woman, no cry: the plight of Jamaica's mothers
- Laura Ashley: don't ignore its hidden treasures
- Lisa I'Anson: the DJ and her shoe obsession
- Stephen Duffy: Duran Duran's comeback kid

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Ulster's new peace survives marching threat

By Ian Burrell

THE NEW era of peace in Northern Ireland passed its first serious test yesterday when one of the most contentious days in the province's marching calendar passed without incident.

Politicians on both sides of the political divide expressed their relief after a violence-free Apprentice Boys' parade was held in Belfast.

But the chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Ronnie Flanagan, said there was still a danger of "tremendous disorder" in the weeks ahead.

"Undoubtedly there are people out there intent on murder, intent on bombing, intent on wrecking any prospect that there is for a peaceful outcome," he said.

Only a dozen marchers from the Belfast Walker Club, together with one band, took part in the half-mile parade along the almost-deserted Ormeau Road.

There was no protest by Catholic residents and only a low-key police presence as the marchers stopped at the Ormeau bridge, in line with a ruling by the Parades Commission. The bridge had been a flashpoint for violence in previous years.

Marchers handed in a letter of protest about the re-routing when they reached a line of police Land Rovers at the bridge, which divides the two communities, but there was no confrontation. Twenty other loyalist Easter Monday parades also passed off without incident.

Catholic residents welcomed the conduct of the marchers. "This community is elated," said Gerard Rice of the Lower Ormeau Concerned Community.

But he called for urgent dialogue between the loyal orders and Catholic communities. "I don't consider having RUC Land Rovers and the world's media at the bridge to be a solution. We need to resolve the core issues here," he said.

Mr Flanagan praised the marchers' "great maturity", but expressed his concern that there was no evidence of any local agreements about other contentious parades.

Worthington McGrath, of the Belfast Walker Club, said members were "bitterly disappointed" at the re-routing.

"We had gone to great lengths to meet the wishes of the Parades Commission and we live in hope that we will cross the bridge and parade into the city centre," he said.

The re-routing of the march was the first decision of the Parades Commission, which was set up to try to avert sectarian clashes.

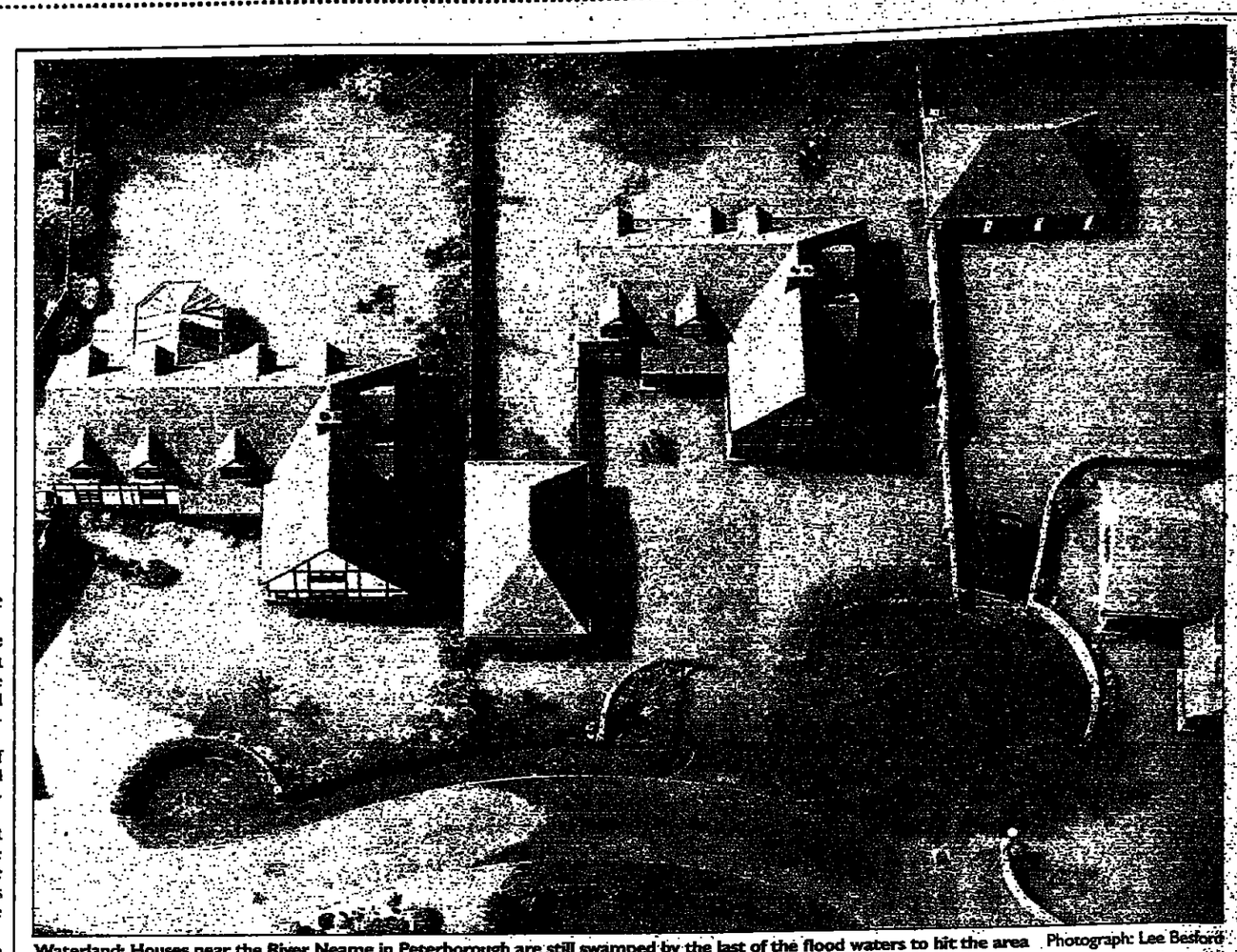
It has still to take its most crucial decision – whether to allow an Orange Order march down the nationalist Garvaghy Road, Portadown, to Drumcree church in July. The Commission's preliminary views on Drumcree and other contentious parades are due to be announced in the week beginning 20 April.

As the province geared up for a 22 May referendum on the peace settlement, the Pope yesterday appealed for "responsible and concrete gestures" to make the deal a success. The agreement reached last week "allows those peoples so dear and so long afflicted to look toward the future with greater trust," he said.

But rebel Ulster Unionist Party MPs have threatened to join a "no" campaign being spearheaded by the Democratic Unionist Party leader, the Rev Ian Paisley, to bring down the agreement.

William Thompson, Ulster Unionist Party MP for West Tyrone, said he "probably would support" the campaign, which will be launched on Wednesday with adverts in local newspapers.

Letters, page 16



Waterland: Houses near the River Neame in Peterborough are still swamped by the last of the flood waters to hit the area Photograph: Lee Besford

Insurers count cost of Easter floods

By Linus Gregoriadis and Alistair Clay

PEOPLE living in the Midlands and East Anglia breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as river experts announced that the flooding is almost certainly over.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency said: "The great floods of 1947 were the worst in living memory. That level of flood happens about once a century. But what we have seen over the weekend should be the sort of thing that happens only once in 150 years."

He added: "We are cautiously optimistic that the worst is now over. But river levels will remain high for the next 48 hours and it will take some days to get back to normality."

Owners of homes and businesses in towns including Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, Evesham in Worcestershire, Northampton and Bedford, continued the mop-up operation yesterday.

Peterborough was the last major centre of population to feel the force of the flood, but the Environment Agency said the city had not suffered as badly as it had feared.

Though further flooding is unlikely, the unseasonable weather is set to continue, with the prospect of more snow today in some regions.

Insurers said they would be able to pay out an estimated £400m damages bill without any dramatic knock-on effect on the cost of premiums, dismissing claims that premiums could soar by up to 35 per cent to meet the massive losses.

Jeffery Salmon, chairman of Salmon Assessors, an insurance claim negotiator, claimed that the final bill for the flooding could be greater than the £1.2bn paid out after 1987 hurricane: "We believe it's going to be somewhere between £1.2bn and £1.5bn.

But the Association of British Insurers (ABI) described these estimates as "absolute rubbish". Tony Baker, the ABI's deputy director, said: "It is not that big an event for the insurance industry to be faced with a bill for £300-500m. We have faced bigger. Money is set aside. That's what the industry is here for. There will be no significant effect on premiums."

Children's prison is 10 times dearer than Eton

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE first prison for children is to open this week amid complaints that it will be more expensive than sending a child to public school.

Medway Secure Training Centre, in Kent, will hold 40 of the country's most dangerous tearaways between the ages of 12 to 14, but yesterday the Children's Society condemned it as a "no-hope" solution.

The cost of the centre has not been revealed, but the charity believes it will cost £5,000 per child a week – 10 times the cost of Eton or Harrow and twice the price of a room at the Ritz.

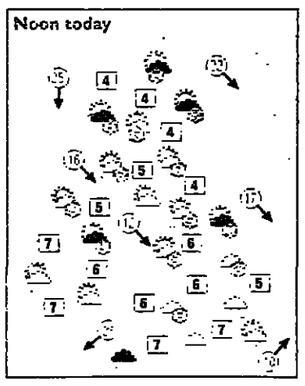
The centres, to be run by private companies, will hold offenders under the controversial "secure training orders" brought in by the Conservative government. They were opposed by Labour in opposition as "colleges of crime", but shortly after taking office the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, announced he would be going ahead with the plans. It would be a waste of public money to cancel them, he said. But he has promised to replace the secure training orders with detention and training orders, which are expected to increase the emphasis on rehabilitation and care rather than punishment.

Ian Sparks, chief executive of the Children's Society, said the £5,000 a week would be better spent providing more local authority secure accommodation.

STCs were brought in by the Michael Howard, former home secretary, in response to concern about young offenders. Prolific teenage burglars and car thieves, such as Ratboy, seemed to be running out of control and could not be jailed because they were too young. Before the Secure Training Orders were introduced, children under 15 could only be jailed for the most serious crimes like murder and manslaughter.

WEATHER

Noon today



Another cold and wintry day. Northern Scotland will have snow showers and only brief sunny spells. Wintry showers will also reach southwards down both western and eastern coasts but the south will be mostly dry with the best of sun. Sunshine on offer. Northern Ireland, England and Wales will see sunny breaks with scattered wintry showers. Sleet or snow to the south and south-east will turn to showers, rain but not before snow starts settling in parts of the Midlands.

Outlook for the next few days

Wednesday will be cold with sunny spells and scattered wintry showers. Sleet or snow is likely over eastern parts of England and Scotland. Thursday will be similar but rain will move into Scotland, preceded by snow. Rain will spread southwards across the country on Friday as the wind increases but it will be a little milder. However colder weather will return to Scotland by the weekend with wintry showers coming back.

British Isles weather

most recent available figure at noon local time

C.cloudy; Cl.clear; F.fair; Fg.fog; Hz.haze; M.mist; R.rain; S.sunny; Sl.sleet; Sh.showers; Sn.snow; Th.thunder

Aberdeen	C	4	39	Guernsey	F	7	45
Anglesey	C	7	45	Inverness	Sn	4	39
Ayr	C	6	43	Ipswich	C	6	43
Belfast	C	5	41	Isles of Scilly	S	7	45
Birmingham	F	6	43	Jersey	F	8	46
Blackpool	F	6	43	Liverpool	F	7	45
Bournemouth	S	8	46	London	S	8	46
Brighton	F	7	45	Manchester	F	6	43
Bristol	Sn	8	46	Newcastle	C	5	41
Cardiff	F	5	41	Oxford	S	7	45
Carlisle	F	7	45	Plymouth	C	5	41
Dover	F	6	43	Scarborough	F	4	39
Dublin	C	7	45	Southampton	S	8	46
Edinburgh	C	6	43	Southend	F	7	45
Exeter	F	8	46	Stornoway	F	4	39
Glasgow	F	6	43	York	C	5	41

Air quality

Yesterday's readings

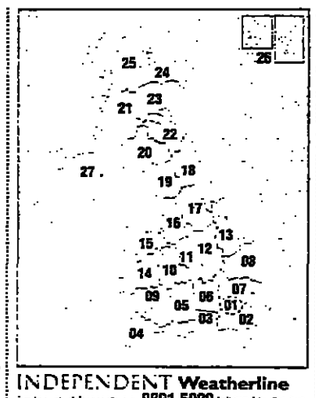
	NO_2	SO_2
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

Outlook for today

London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0335 401777 for the latest road and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times incl VAT.



INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecast, call 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area as listed in the above map. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times incl VAT.

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	04 09	7.0	16 24	7.1
Liverpool	[illegible]	9.2	13 36	9.1
Avonmouth	09 59	12.9	21 45	12.9
Hull (Albert Dock)	03 37	8.5	20 51	8.5
Greenock	03 37	3.1	14 55	3.2
Dun Laoghaire	01 29	3.9	13 54	3.8

Height measured in metres

Lighting-up times

Belfast	[illegible]	to	06 20
Birmingham	[illegible]	to	05 10
Bristol	[illegible]	to	06 15
Glasgow	[illegible]	to	06 12
London	[illegible]	to	05 16
Manchester	[illegible]	to	05 10
Newcastle	[illegible]	to	05 04

Sun & moon

Sun rises	06 03
Sun sets	19 55
Moon rises	02 32
Moon sets	07 56

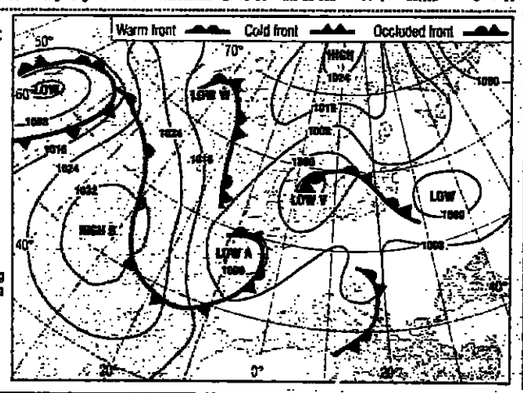
Last Quarter April 19

World weather

most recent available figure at noon local time

Akrotiri	S	29	84	Buenos Aires	M	19	66	Honolulu	C	26	79	Mexico City	S	27	81	Riyadh	S	31	88
Alexandria	S	31	88	Cairo	F	36	97	Istanbul	F	20	68	Miami	F	24	75	Rome	C	15	59
Algiers	F	19	66	Calgary	C	5	41	Jakarta	C	32	90	Milan	C	8	46	Salzburg	C	7	45
Alicante	C	19	64	Cape Town	S	23	73	Jeddah	F	39	102	Mombasa	S	32	90	San Fran	C	13	55
Amsterdam	Sh	6	43	Caracas	C	31	88	Jerusalem	F	29	84	Montreal	S	13	55	Santiago	C	17	63
Anchorage	C	8	46	Casablanca	F	18	64	Jo'burg	F	21	70	Moscow	C	0	32	Seoul	C	18	64
Athens	S	21	70	Chicago	S	21	70	Karachi	F	37	99	Munich	Sh	5	41	Singapore	C	34	93
Auckland	C	20	68	Christchurch	C	16	61	Kathmandu	S	27	81	Nairobi	C	25	77	Stockholm	C	2	36
Bahrain	S	35	95	Cologne	F	9	48	Kiev	C	11	52	Naples	F	14	57	Strasbourg	C	6	43
Bangkok	F	36	97	Copenhagen	C	6	43	Kingston	S	29	84	Nassau	F	24	75	Sydney	C	24	75
Barbados	F	30	86	Corfu	F	16	61	Kuala Lumpur	C	31	88	New Delhi	S	31	88	T'aipei	C	27	81
Barcelona	F	19	61	Crete	S	25	77	Las Palmas	C	21	70	New Orleans	S	23	73	Tel Aviv	S	38	100
Beirut	F	22	90	Dakar	F	24	75	Lima	S	29	84	New York	S	12	54	Tenerife	C	21	70
Belgrade	C	11	52	Darwin	F	31	88	Lisbon	C	13	55	Nice	F	14	57	Tokyo	Sh	22	72
Berlin	C	7	45	Dhahran	S	35	95	Locarno	C	7	45	Nicosia	S	29	84	Toronto	S	14	57
Bermuda	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Faro	S	18	64	Los Angeles	S	15	59	Oslo	Sn	1	34	Tunis	F	19	66
Biarritz	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Florence	C	11	52	Luxembourg	F	7	45	Paris	Sn	8	46	Valencia	S	19	66
Bogota	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Frankfurt	C	8	46	Madrid	C	11	52	Peking	S	20	68	Vancouver	C	10	50
Bombay	S	31	88	Funchal	C	17	63	Majorca	F	17	63	Perth	F	23	73	Venice	C	11	52
Bordeaux	Sn	9	48	Geneva	Sn	3	37	Malaga	S	21	70	Port Stanley	C	9	48	Vienna	F	11	52
Brisbane	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gibraltar	C	18	64	Malta	F	17	63	Prague	C	8	46	Warsaw	Sh	7	45
Brussels	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Harare	F	23	73	Manila	S	32	91	Reykjavik	C	5	41	Washington	F	17	63
Bucharest	F	17	63	Helsinki	Sn	-1	30	Mecca	F	39	102	Rhodes	C	21	70	Wellington	F	20	68
Budapest	F	13	55	Hong Kong	C	21	81	Melbourne	Sh	13	55	Rio de Jan	F	29	84	Zurich	C	4	39

Atlantic chart, noon today



Lows A and V are slow moving and filling. High B is stationary.

MICHAEL HANLON WEATHER WISE

DID this winter's spectacular El Niño have anything to do with global warming? Yes, say some US experts. James Baker, under-secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere, claimed that if global warming is a reality, weather phenomena such as El Niño could intensify.

The flow of warm water south along the east Pacific coast, replacing the normal upwelling of cold water from the Southern Ocean, was much more extensive this winter than in normal years. In a report last week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the 1997-98 El Niño ranks as one of the major climatic events of the century. "Last winter gave the world a preview of what climate conditions may be like as global warming increases," Mr Baker said.

Some models, he said, indicate that with global warming the effects of El Niño will intensify, but he admitted there was no hard evidence this was happening.

The key words are "some models". Attempts to model the climate using super-computers, desktop Pentiums or pen and paper have not been successful.

El Niño is driven by solar heat. If the total thermal input into the system increases, say as a result of carbon dioxide-induced warming, it might be expected that effects such as El Niño would increase. But it might also be expected that other thermal phenomena, such as tropical storms, would increase too. In fact, the severe El Niño of the past few months has been directly related to a fall in both the number, and severity, of tropical Atlantic storms.

It's all horribly complicated, and it's probably fair to say that inferences of catastrophic change from a few months' worth of data should be treated with extreme caution.

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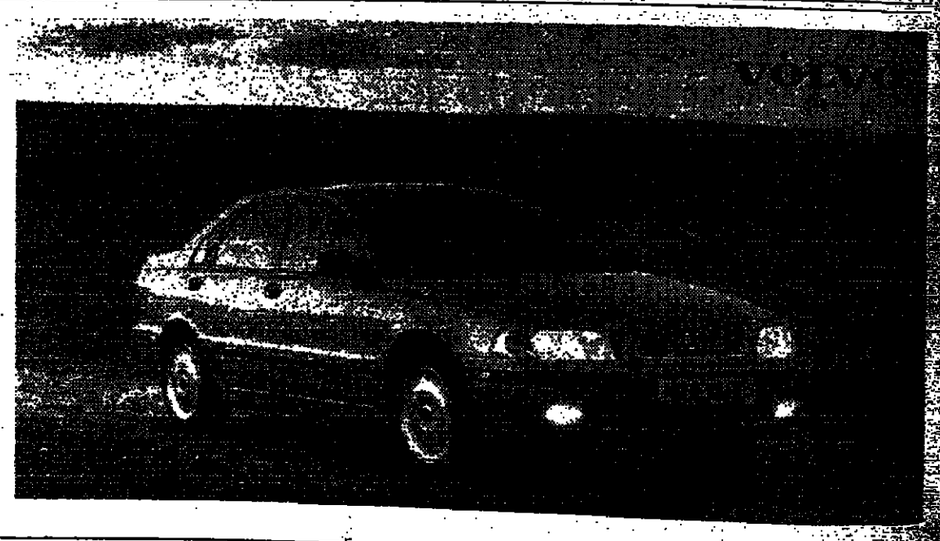

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Taxpayer to pay for success of rail sell-off

By Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

TAXPAYERS could become victims of the success of private train companies in attracting record numbers of passengers to the rail network.

Services which are overburdened can ask for taxpayers to meet part of the £750,000 bill for every new carriage bought to meet the unexpected demand. Under rules set up when the companies were sold, owners can apply for more public cash to buy extra rolling stock if they are carrying more passengers than in 1989, when 813,000 people used trains in the South-east of England during morning rush-hour.

With some lines now seeing passenger numbers increasing by 20 per cent a year, many companies are expecting to run out of room on their services. Government figures last month showed five out the 10 train companies operating commuter routes serving London are already "too full". Connex South Central, which serves the south coast and London, has a "capacity limit" of 64,000. But the latest figures show 64,886 people using it in the rush-hour.

Growth of nearly 10 per cent in passenger numbers on Thameslink, which runs the Brighton-London-Bedford service, saw it carry nearly 2,000 more commuters in the morning peak than its 24,500 limit. John O' Brien, the Franchising Director, who monitors the network, says no operator has come looking for money yet to buy new carriages to cope with this "unforeseen growth".

But numbers are going up fast. South West Trains, which ferries commuters from Surrey to London, is only a few hundred passengers short of its 71,000 capacity limit and grew by 10 per cent last year. WAGN, which runs the busy Peterborough-to-London service, is only fractionally under its maximum load of 45,500 - having only carried 39,000 passengers in 1996.

There is no one explanation for the growth in passenger numbers.

Growth in the economy is one factor. But while London Underground has seen passenger numbers rise by 4 per cent, the "overground" rail companies have recorded a 10 per cent jump.

Some railway managers say housing developments on the edge of the city have seen a new "commuter class" develop. Martin Walter, a marketing manager with Thameslink, said: "We have seen new passengers from new housing in Harpenden [in Hertfordshire], where professionals want to get into the centre and with us it's only 25 minutes."

Others point to London's increasingly gridlocked roads. Civil servants at the Franchising Director's office say "congestion is now universal". "People no longer can drive to the edge of London and then take the Tube - because of congestion. So they take the train."

Executives also say the rail network may require an overhaul. "Personally, I think the infrastructure needs to be looked at first," said John Hampson, commercial director with Connex South Central. "There is no point in running more carriages on each train if the platforms in south London are not long enough to cope with them."

Missionary heading for another Heart of Darkness

IN THE NEWS

TERRY WAITE

TERRY WAITE was once asked if he would intervene again on behalf of hostages, in spite of the five years he spent chained to various radiators in Beirut after his last involvement. Most people would have found it easy to say 'no', but not the 6ft 7ins former envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

"If I was sufficiently convinced that I was the right person to do it, I would go back, not to cock a snook or say, 'look at what this great man dare do', but simply because it might be worth a try," he replied.

Good as his word, Mr Waite is set to intervene again, this time on behalf of three Americans held hostage by Colombian guerrillas since 1993. He flew to New York yesterday to begin talks that might eventually lead him into the South American jungle.

The news was greeted, inevitably, with astonishment and, in some quarters, with a little cruelty. Asking Terry Waite to rescue hostages is, after all, akin to offering Nelson Mandela the job of prison officer on Robben Island. The fact that he is being accompanied by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, author of *A Hundred Years of Solitude*, did nothing to relieve the sense of disbelief.

Mr Waite, 58, was due to meet Marquez and fellow Beirut hostage Terry Anderson last night to decide upon a course of action to secure the release of Mark Rich, 28, Richard Tenenoff, 41, and 49-year-old Charles Mankins, al kidnapped from a border village in Panama five years ago.

The hostages' families turned to Mr Waite after all their other efforts failed. He admits that negotiations might eventually lead him to Colombia, where kidnapping is commonplace, but he insists that he will not place himself in danger.

"After what happened the last time, people might think I'm crazy for doing it again, but I'm going into it with my eyes open," he said. However, he has said on many occasions that he went into the Lebanese negotiations with eyes open – even when he was blindfolded and led into 1,763 days of captivity by armed Hizbollah militia.

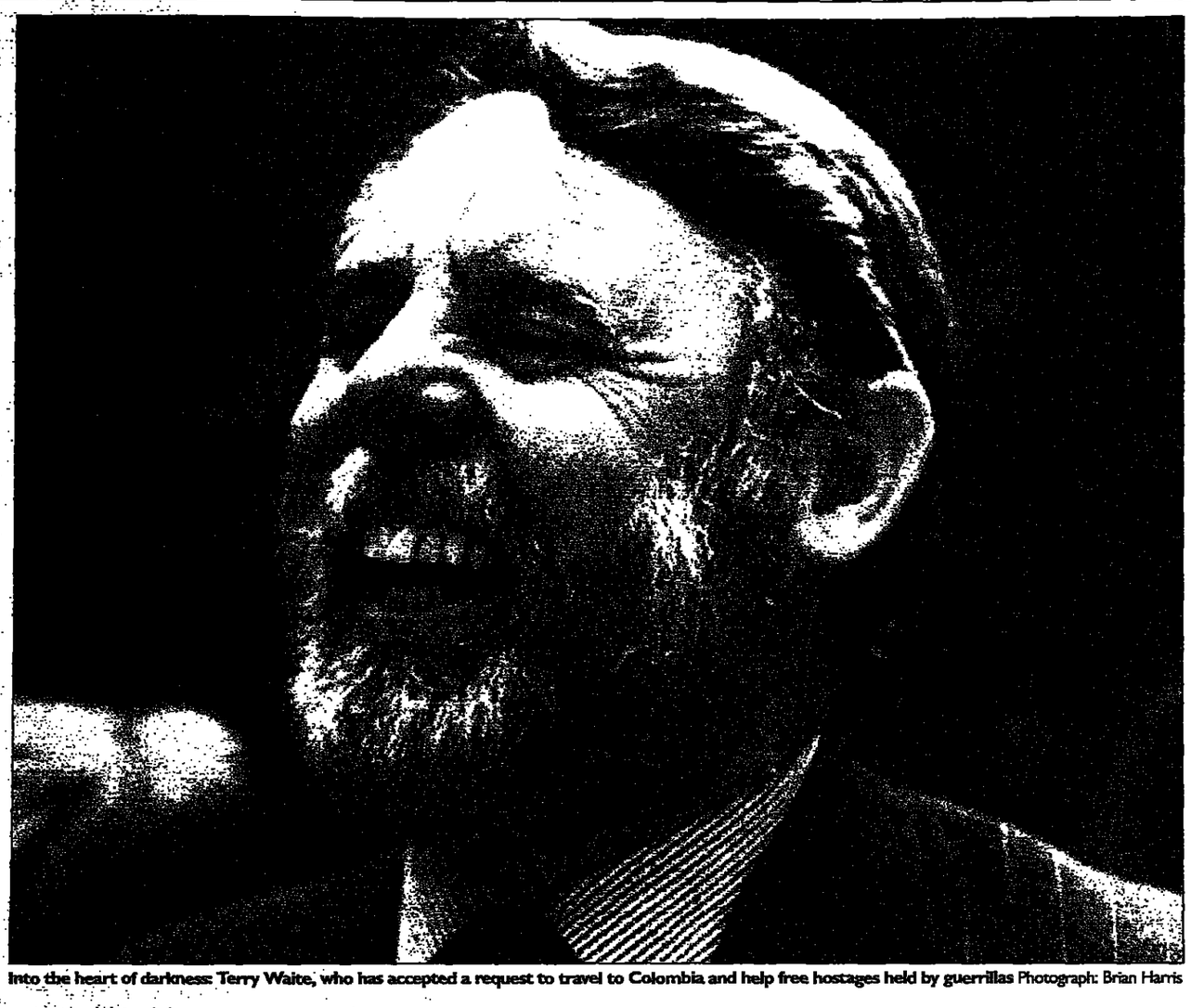
That was in January 1987 while he was acting as the special envoy of Dr Robert Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, on a mission to free a number of Western hostages. It has since emerged that Dr Runcie thought the enterprise foolhardy and that Mr Waite was being used as a stooge for an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran. Coupled with disclosures about arguments with other hostages and accusations that he has a fondness for the limelight, the former envoy has taken a mild battering since his release in 1991.

Of the latter accusation, he once said: "You take a high profile because you're trying to keep the case of the hostages alive. Of course, your own ego is involved – you can't be good in the publicity field without that – and if you're a human being, some element of vanity and pride will be present. But nobody has the right to say I was involved for those reasons. Publicity! It's a hell of a way to get publicity!"

After his release, Mr Waite had some psychological problems and he accepted all the help he was offered in fairness to his wife, Frances, and their four children.

He always spoke glowingly of the support he received from Frances and promised not to put her through the same anguish again. It will be interesting, as the media gather, to see how far into his modern-day Heart of Darkness Terry Waite will be prepared to go in the pursuit of freedom for three strangers.

Steve Boggan



Into the heart of darkness: Terry Waite, who has accepted a request to travel to Colombia and help free hostages held by guerrillas Photograph: Brian Harris

DREAMS OF FREEDOM

In the early days of his captivity, Terry Waite was haunted by a dream which was both sad and uplifting.

"I was walking along a beach in a part of the world I didn't know, and, suddenly, felt I was lost and alone," he said. "Then I saw some figures walk along the beach and they took me by the hand to a village and safety. Then I recognised them as my own children."

He said the image gave him the strength to go on.

AN AFRICAN COUP

When Mr Waite's wife, Frances, was eight months pregnant with their son Mark (they also have three grown-up daughters, twins Ruth and Claire, and Gillian), the family was caught up in the Ugandan coup led by Idi Amin.

One night they heard gunfire. "In the morning there was a body at the bottom of the garden," Mr Waite recalls. "More were scattered around. Bullets started flying. We dived back into the house and turned on the BBC World Service and learned there'd been a coup."

KEEPING WATCH

In spite of the privations he endured during captivity, including beatings and a mock execution, Mr Waite says he is not bitter. "I look back on the experience with gratitude," he once said.

When he was finally released, he asked his captors for the return of his watch, which was taken after his abduction. When they told him it had been lost, he boomed at them: "What do you mean? You can't just go around stealing people's watches!" So they went out and bought him a new one.

Termite alert as insects eat porch

By Ian Burrell

NAPOLEON'S troops couldn't do it and neither could Hitler's, but Britain's shores have been invaded by millions of the most destructive soldiers known to man – termites.

The army of *Reticulitermes flavipes* marches on its stomach. It will dine on fungi, paper, cloth, leather, plastic piping and lead-sheathed telephone cable. But, most of all, the termite likes to devour wood. And with a single colony consisting of up to three million insects, they are capable of eating a house.

For years, governments have been fighting a rearguard action to protect Britain's trees, fence posts, garden sheds and kitchen tables from being gobbled up by a scourge which is dreaded in Africa and southern Europe and has spread to the north coast of France.

But three years ago pest controllers received the news they had feared; a wooden conservatory in North Devon had been consumed.

The housewife who had discovered the termites was told to keep silent while the Department of Environment set up a secret task force to destroy the invading colony.

The man they turned to was Tony Bravery, director of the Centre of Timber Technology Construction at the Building Research Station near Watford. Working with a timber treatment expert, Mr Bravery blitzed the termites with chemical weapons.

The insecticides should have had a devastating effect on the insect soldiers, which are armed only with mandibles and a squirt gun in their snouts which fires a repellant glandular secretion, mostly at enemy ants.

Dr Bravery, who managed to trace the termite infestation to a plant which had been brought in from eastern Europe, was confident that the British winter would kill off any insects that had escaped. Yet, termites are great survivors. Each colony contains a large number of winged reproductives capable of flying several hundred yards to establish new nests.

This spring the termites have reappeared, eating their way through a timber porch. Dr Bravery said: "It does not look like a big colony but we keep finding them. It is very worrying."

Among the nervous onlookers will be the timber merchants who had been celebrating Government plans for the building of four million new homes by the year 2016.

Experts attribute the termite's survival in Britain to climate change, which has seen cockroaches, deathwatch beetle and other pests move north.

Ian MacGregor, scourge of miners, dies

MacGregor: 'I was not a butcher, I was a plastic surgeon'

By Donald Macintyre

SIR IAN MACGREGOR, who was chairman of the National Coal Board during the 1984-85 miners' strike, died yesterday while staying with friends in Somerset. He was 85.

Sir Ian was given by Margaret Thatcher the job of scaling down the coal industry in the belief that pit closures would provoke a strike for which the government was ready.

Lady Thatcher said yesterday: "He brought a breath of fresh air to British industry and he had such a genial personality.

"He had a tremendous way of putting things. He made a real difference and I was very grateful when he came back to this country."

Not everyone in the coal industry found him so genial. Although he was born and educated in Scotland it was his background as a highly successful businessman in the US which attracted to him to the then Prime Minister when he was brought in to run the British Steel Corporation. In the steel industry, as later in coal, he set about a formidable job-shedding programme which was pivotal to the restructuring of the British economy between 1980 and 1983. He was then translated to the NCB where his antipathy to the Morrisonian coal board management culture was considered by ministers as a key qualification for the job.

His courage and determination are not in doubt. He certainly emerged the victor, though his harsher critics argued that there were times when the coal board appeared to be winning despite rather than because of his leadership. At the height of the conflict with the miners he needlessly helped to provoke a serious strike threat by the normally loyal pit deputies, saying that he could replace them with outsiders as Ronald Reagan had done with striking air-traffic controllers.

His lack of presentational skills could well have been seriously damaging if Arthur Scargill had not forfeited trade union, Labour Party and above all public sympathy by refusing to hold a strike ballot.

His market value, however, was underlined by the – for the times – huge and controversial payments, each of well over £1m, to Lazard Freres of which he was a senior partner, at the time of his appointments both to the BSC and NCB.

He insisted that his harsh image was a distortion and his publicly stated intention before the strike was to ensure jobs in mining for all who wanted them and generous redundancy payments for those who did not. "I am not a butcher," he said. "I am a plastic surgeon – I try to rebuild damaged features."

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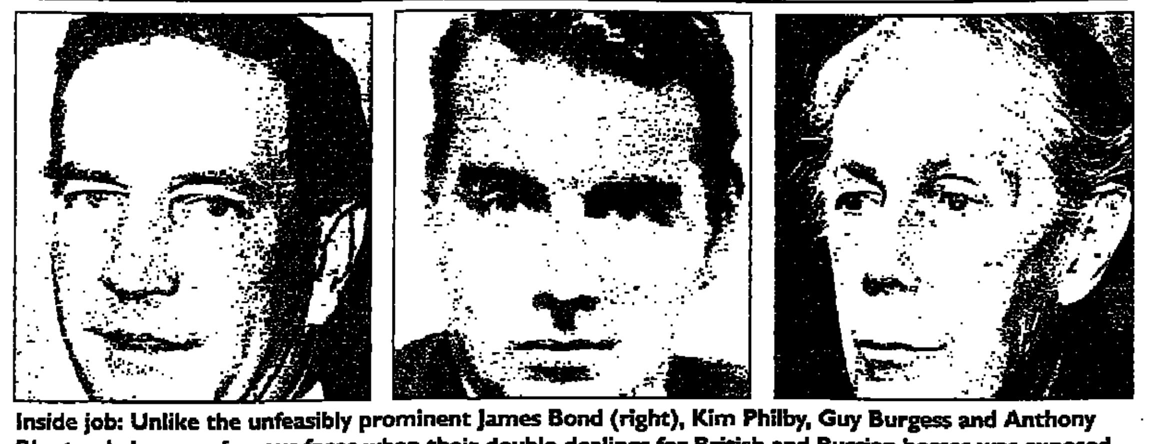

Inside job: Unlike the unfeasibly prominent James Bond (right), Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt only became famous faces when their double-dealings for British and Russian bosses was exposed.

From Bond to Burgess, Her Majesty no longer requires your services

Even the Russians are mourning the loss of our men on the inside, writes **Steve Boggan**

DURING the Cold War, Russian spies at the KGB school outside Moscow were taught to view America as their prime enemy but to pay special attention to the sneaky British.

Even today, when former Soviet spymasters reminisce about the good old days, they still chuckle at the resourcefulness of perfidious Albion – and at their own success in outwitting her.

"The Russian stereotype of the British is that they are cunning and hypocritical," said Colonel Mikhail Lyubimov, former head of the British section at KGB headquarters, in an interview with *The Independent* last year.

The news today that the number of spies is shrinking comes as no surprise given the lack of any real enemy on which to spy, but it will sadden the likes of Colonel Lyubimov who enjoyed nothing better than to pit his wits against a worthy adversary.

Britain's Secret Intelligence Service was established in 1909, before either the KGB or the CIA, and quickly regarded its number one enemy as Russia, which it saw as challenging its imperial aspirations.

"Britain was afraid of tsarist Russian influence in India and Afghanistan and we saw you as being not only anti-Soviet but Russophobic even before the Bolshevik Revolution," said Col Lyubimov. "Britain did all in its power to help those who opposed the Bolsheviks."

Secrets: Double agents Donald Maclean and John Cairncross

By the 1930s, however, the focus in Europe was on the rise of fascism, a factor which attracted sympathy for the communist resistance to it and which led to the establishment of the spy ring most Britons know best – Russian spies with British names.

Inevitably, the most successful British agents remain unsung and unknown in their home country. But everyone remembers the Cambridge Five: Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, Anthony Blunt, Donald Maclean and John Cairncross.

"There was a strong anti-fascist mood across Europe and people wanted to help us fight Hitler," said Col Lyubimov. This was when the "Magnificent Five" were recruited. And the colonel said they represented only the tip of the iceberg.

The Five were in jobs with either the Foreign Office or the security services – just the type facing cuts today.

However, does the reduction in numbers really matter? In the case of MI5, the domestic intelligence agency, opinion is split. Nigel West, the espionage writer, is not complimentary.

"Between 1945 and 1972 – when the Soviet intelligence officer Oleg Lyalin defected and named names – they caught only one spy, and that was by chance," he said.

"In 1953 an MI5 officer was getting off a bus and spotted a Russian he had targeted some weeks earlier. He followed him and saw him meet a man who was later identified as William Martin Marshal, a diplomatic wire service officer."

On the foreign front, however, there is concern at a cut in numbers.

"We were taken by surprise in the Falklands and in the Gulf precisely because there were not enough people on the ground," said Mr West. "It would seem we have learned nothing from those experiences. SIS employs only about 200 people overseas. If it were up to me, I wouldn't cut the numbers, I'd double them."

Threat of court for bad NHS managers

By Kate Watson-Smyth

HEALTH managers could be taken to court if they fail to provide adequate care for patients, the Government announced yesterday.

The move, outlined by Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, will be the first time that a legal duty of quality has been imposed on every hospital in England since the birth of the National Health Service in 1948. Every hospital will have to appoint someone to take charge of quality issues, either a doctor, a nurse or a clinical professional, who will have to submit regular reports to trust boards.

There will also be a new framework to ensure that standards are continuously monitored and improved.

Mr Milburn said: "What counts for patients is the quality of service. Until now the principal legal duties of NHS trusts have been financial.

"Balancing the book remains important, but quality of care to patients should be the first priority."

Last year the health secretary, Frank Dobson, announced a nationwide review of breast cancer screening arrangements and promised that there would be sweeping reforms to both breast and cervical cancer screening.

The review followed a series of cancer screening cases which fell below acceptable standards in Kent, Devon and north Staffordshire.

Last November, cervical smear tests on almost 18,000 women had to be re-checked after an investigation found that 16 who had been given the all-clear should have been recalled for further examination.

The decision, by Warwickshire Health Authority, was the latest in a series of blunders in which cervical and breast cancer tests cleared women who were later found to have early signs of cancer.

All the women were examined at the pathology laboratory at the Hospital of St Cross, Rugby, and doubts about the accuracy with which the smear tests were read arose after it was noticed that fewer abnormalities were being detected than would have been expected from national levels.

A few weeks earlier, it emerged that 12 women who had been given the all-clear following breast screening at Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital were found to have cancer.

Shortly before that there was an independent investigation into cervical screening at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, where five women died and more than 330 required urgent investigation after high numbers of wrongly read samples came to light in 1995.

Mr Dobson said the reforms of breast and cervical cancer screening would strengthen quality assurance, eliminate weaknesses in the organisation of screening and restore the public confidence.

The full plans, which are to be outlined later this spring, and will come into force next year, will set explicit standards and also make it easier for "whistle-blowers" to complain about the poor work of colleagues.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said: "Although the machinery is still there, there is still the suspicion of a strong temptation not to rat on a mate, though what the mate is doing may be injurious to patients."

Judge attacks Mason register

A SENIOR judge yesterday launched an attack on Government plans to set up a register of freemasons working in the criminal justice system.

Lord Justice Millett, a Court of Appeal judge and himself a freemason, said the proposals set out by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, were "completely wrong" and an invasion of privacy.

His attack comes as the United Grand Lodge of England is preparing to mount a public campaign against the Government's plans.

Mr Straw has said he intends to set up a public register of freemasons in the justice system, covering the police, the judiciary, the Crown Prosecution Service and the prisons and probation services. Declaration will initially be voluntary, although Mr Straw has warned that he will bring in legislation compelling registration if they do not co-operate with the system. New members who are freemasons will be required to register under their conditions of service.

Lord Justice Millett insisted there was no justification for such strongarm tactics by the Government. "I have no objection at all to voluntary disclosure. I object to the state requiring disclosure under compulsion of law. I think that is completely wrong. It is an invasion of privacy which should not be tolerated," he said.

He denied the freemasons were a secret society and said he had always been completely open about his membership. "It is a society with secrets in the sense there are little passwords, rather childish passwords, which we use during the ritual, but that's all," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"It is a completely harmless pastime. There is no difference between that and the membership of a golf club."

However Labour MP David Winnick, a member of the Commons Home Affairs Committee which has been investigating freemasonry, strongly defended the proposed register.

"Everything should be above board when justice is concerned and for the life of me I can't see why anyone should oppose declaring membership," he told the programme.

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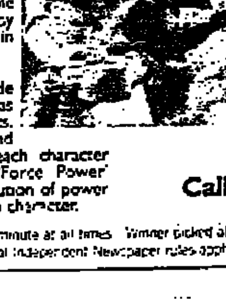

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Mitchell's peace at home

NOBEL Peace Prize candidate George Mitchell celebrated Friday's peace agreement by going for a brief Easter stroll in New York's Central Park. Mitchell, 64, is the former US senator who led the Ulster mediation team during the past 22 months. He remarried in 1994 and has a six-month-old son, whom he has seen only fleetingly since his birth. Dressed in khaki trousers, green anorak and trainers, Mitchell walked beside his wife Heather as she carried baby Andrew in a sling. "I feel fine," Mitchell told the *New York Times*. "I slept on the plane." Amazingly, after a brief trip to Washington to report to President Clinton this week and then his baby's christening, Mitchell is leaving on a business trip to Europe. Judging from his wife's acceptance of this plan, Pandora must assume Mitchell is a miracle worker whose peace brokering knows no limits, political or domestic.

Class diversion for Tory

FOLLOWING Gyles Brandreth's astounding diary revelations in the *Sunday Telegraph*, the hunt is on to find the Tory minister who missed an Education Bill vote on 28 January 1997 after having told the former Tory whip, "*I've got some right high-class shank tonight. I'm going* to take her home and knob her rigid". Could this have been the same MP who went missing for a Commons division on the Education Bill the previous evening, 27 January, in which the Government was defeated by one vote? Pandora believes almost anything was possible during those last dark hours before Major's downfall.

Capital idea dies a death

A JOLLY Easter lunch party in Oxfordshire took a macabre turn when the journalist and author Paul Johnson decided to poll his table companions on the subject of capital punishment. "Do you believe in the death penalty?" Johnson asked the *Telegraph* proprietor Conrad Black, the novelist Candia McWilliams (right), the playwright Harold Pinter, financier and host Peter Soros and Pandora, among others. "No," was the answer in each case. "Oh well," said an unruffled Johnson, looking across the room at the other table, "I don't suppose anyone over there agrees with me either."

Big issue for US streets

THE launch of the *Big Issue* in Los Angeles this month has sparked a turf war. There have long been other marginal newspapers in America produced for and by homeless people. But the Big Issue *is* a very polished publication compared to New York's *Street News*, San Francisco's *Street Sheet* or Santa Monica's *Making Change*. Founded by John Bird and Gordon Roddick, the *Big Issue* carries glam advertising (Calvin Klein, Levi's) and turns a handsome profit. Of course all profit goes to support charities for the homeless, but its American rivals distrust such success. Jennifer Waggoner, who has published one issue of *Making Change* in Santa Monica, works on a laptop in the back of her van. The *Big Issue* has offered her financial assistance, a new computer and help in finding office space, but she is having none of it.

PC Julie's sporting chance

IN LAST Saturday's *Guardian*, Julie Burchill wrote extolling political correctness. Her justification: female American undergraduates need firm rules to protect them from oversized, oversexed male athletes on campus. Pandora salutes this classic example of anything-for-a-little-attention-Burchillian reasoning. (Since male student athletes make up far less than 1 per cent of the campus population, it's clear that the "political" in Burchill's PC code has nothing to do with democracy.) The American colleges with the strictest rules about student sex behaviour are institutions such as Oral Roberts University, run by right-wing Christian zealots who ban dancing, hand holding and, incidentally, regard any form of political correctness like vampires exposed to the sun. Perhaps Julie should take up a writer-in-residence post at ORU and try a taste of her own hogwash?

Pandora

DAILY POEM

The Forest Pool

by Edith Nesbit

Lean down and see your little face
Reflected in the forest pool,
Tall foxgloves grow about the place,
Forget-me-nots grow green and cool.
Look deep and see the naiad rise
To meet the sunshine of your eyes.

Lean down and see how you are fair.
How gold your hair, your mouth how red:
See the leaves dance about your hair
The wind has left unfilleted.
What naiad of them can compare
With you for good and dear and fair?

Ah! look no more – the water stirs.
The naiad weeps your face to see,
Your beauty is more rare than hers.
And you are more beloved than she.
Flight, before she steals the charms
The pool has trusted to her arms.

Our Daily Poems until Friday come from the revised and expanded edition of the Penguin Classics anthology *Poetry of the 1890s* (Penguin, £8.99), edited by R K R Thornton and Marion Thain. "The Forest Pool" first appeared in 1898, in Edith Nesbit's *Songs of Love and Empire*.

DIY craze that carries lethal risk

Fashion for stripping wood can release deadly lead fumes, reports **Ian Burrell**

Joan Rider: Sanding off lead paint at her Victorian home put her in danger of fatal brain damage
Photograph: Malcolm Ganderton

THE growing fashion for stripped wood could bring about a major increase in cases of lead poisoning. Leaded paint, which has been undisturbed for decades, is being removed with heat guns and sanders, unleashing potentially lethal fumes.

Joan Rider, a fitness instructor, found this to her cost when she chose a stripped-wood finish for her newly bought five-bedroom home and nearly died as a result.

The task of burning and blasting the paintwork from the door frames and skirting boards of the Victorian property almost destroyed her both physically and mentally.

She lost her sense of balance and had to stop working because of chronic tiredness and dizziness.

Her condition baffled doctors until tests showed she had nearly 800 milligrams of lead per litre of blood, eight times the safe limit and leaving her at risk of fatal brain damage. She had been poisoned by inhaling thousands of particles of lead from the dust of pre-war paint. "It's an insidious way of being poisoned," she said. "As long as you have the lead in your body your condition is going to get worse."

Until the 1960s, paint contained up to 50 per cent lead by weight. But when the paint is burned off by temperatures in excess of 450C, the lead vaporises.

Richard Meeran of the London solicitors Leigh Day, said that the Government, the DIY industry and doctors were all culpable for failing to warn the public of the dangers. "This has been known about for a long time. They have all been slow to issue warnings to the public and they still have not done it effectively."

A new Lead Awareness Group, comprising leading doctors, toxicologists, lawyers and environmentalists, has been set up to warn the public of the risks of lead paint.

Mr Meeran is particularly angry that some DIY companies have been warning American consumers of the dangers of lead paint since 1983 but failing to do the same in this country.

There are also particular dangers to children who develop a craving for lead paint on doors or window sills because it tastes so sweet.

Mr Meeran is dealing with two cases where babies have been severely brain damaged by chewing on lead paint.

Meanwhile Mrs Rider, 55, from Broadstairs in Kent, is having therapy which involves taking 18 tablets a day to draw the lead from her body tissue.

She is now considering legal action against the makers of the sandblaster and heat gun equipment. "You become physically weak and that affects you emotionally," she said. "You cannot do things you would normally be able to do. It destroys your life."

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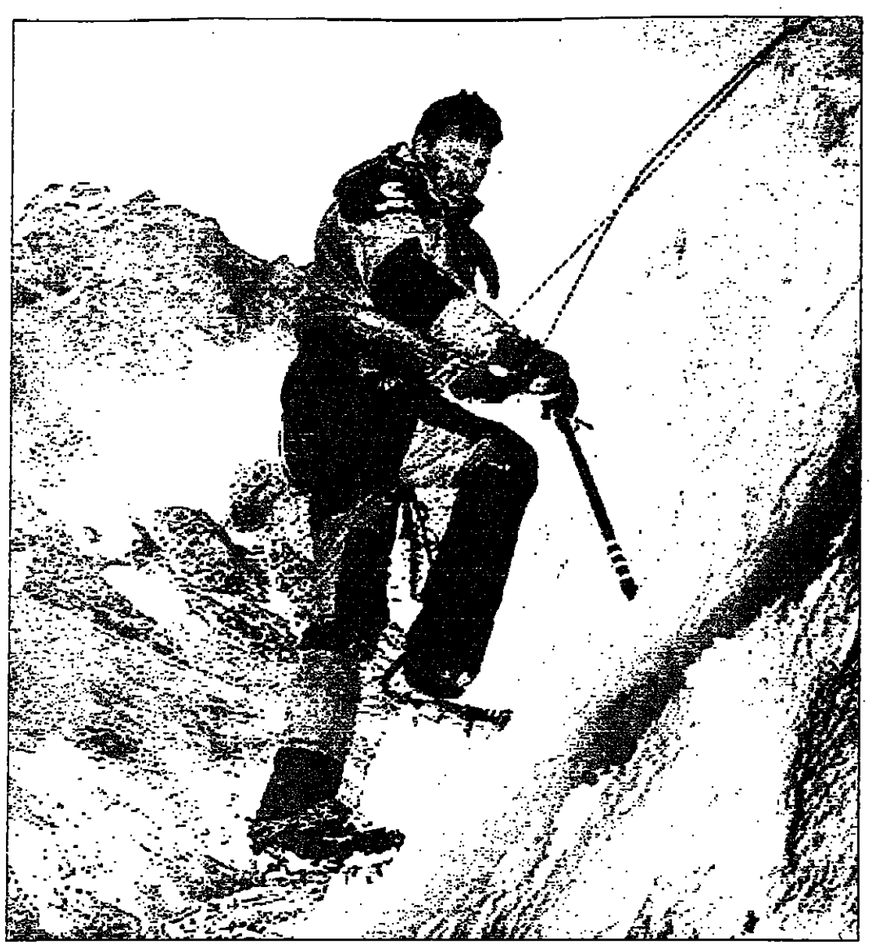

Third attempt: Tom Whittaker, 49, tackling the Khumbu Icefall. With an artificial right leg, he hopes to be the first amputee to ascend the summit and plans to make his latest assault next month
Photograph: Howard Kelley

Without a leg to stand on, but on top of the world

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Everest Diary

Base Camp

THE artificial limb lying on the snow beside the crampon-scarred track into the Khumbu Icefall seemed pretty incongruous by anyone's standards.

Just getting to Base Camp would be a considerable feat for a disabled person. Discarding a limb at the foot of one of the key stages in the ascent of Everest, well, that is a puzzle.

Just as a reminder that entering the icefall is akin to playing Russian roulette, we watched from our tents this morning as one of the seracs (ice cliffs) collapsed in a cascading explosion of ice and snow. Fortunately, it was some distance from the route engineered up to Camp One and which, weather permitting, our Himalayan Kingdoms team will take tomorrow.

The owner of the artificial limb was also well out of the firing line of the serac fall. Tom Whittaker was back at his own Everest Challenge base after two days at Camp One in preparation for what he hopes will be the first ascent of the mountain's summit by an amputee. British climber Norman Croucher, missing both legs below the knee, has climbed Cho Oyo, the sixth highest 8,000m peak, and been high on Everest's north side.

Whittaker, who holds British and United States passports, is a fit-looking 49-year-old. Three inches over six foot, he has every bit of the physique of the bouncer he briefly was in Gibraltar nightclubs, and the "big wall" climber and outdoor pursuits specialist he has been over more than 25 years. It is only when a slight limp draws the gaze to his right foot that one realises how extraordinary Whittaker's attempt on Everest really is.

In place of a foot, Whittaker has a piece of sprung graphite which looks rather like a spatula attached to a prosthesis under his trouser leg. What we had seen at the base of the icefall was his work-a-day prosthesis, bashed about on the quarry floor of Base Camp and switched for his mountain climbing limb, which comes complete with crampon-spiked foot.

Whittaker's life was turned upside down in 1979, when, just as he was about to improve his skiing skills in Sun Valley, Idaho, he was hit by a drunk driver in a car. Both his legs were smashed. "At first it was so serious that I didn't have time to think about the ramifications of it," he said.

When he did, he decided not to return to England where "as an army brat" he felt he had no roots. He had been at boarding school in Surrey and North Wales before starting a career in outdoor education.

Supported by friends, he rebuilt his life in the United States and is now a professor of adventure education at Prescott College in Arizona, married with one daughter and still able to spend lots of time in the outdoors. He has also made two attempts on Everest, surviving a storm which killed five Polish climbers in 1989 and getting within 1,000m of the summit in 1995.

"I was super disappointed," he said of that 1995 attempt on the north side when "a certain amount of squabbling" between teams meant that there was insufficient fixed rope in place to compensate for his disability. "That trip cost me about $30,000 [£18,4000] whereas this one is costing about $300,000 (£184,000), but the deal is I want to be in control of my destiny."

Whittaker is sponsored by US broadcasters CBS and an innovative protein company Ester-C. Not surprisingly the Everest Challenge team has the best communications and a boggling amount of healthy powders which Whittaker believes are the equivalent of knocking 1,000m off Everest's daunting 8848m.

Whittaker is surrounded by friends and climbing colleagues from Prescott College. They all seem to share his goal of placing the first amputee on the top of the world, and unlike on previous attempts he is "prepared to be a little bit selfish" to ensure that he makes it. "These are young men and women in their prime who will get another chance whereas I am a fat 50-year-old with one foot," he said.

People with far greater disabilities than Whittaker will be trying to make the journey to Base Camp as part of the Challenge project. Including a 54-year-old woman missing a complete leg, the group are all from a programme started by Whittaker to repay his "debt" to the community that helped him recover and called, somewhat oddly, C.W.Hogg – co-operative wilderness handicapped outdoor group. "If these people don't work together as a team, their chances of getting up to Base Camp are very remote," said Whittaker, who will be descending to one of the lower lodges to meet the group shortly before making his summit attempt in May. His progress can be followed on web site: www.everestonline.com.

> The deal is, I want to be in control of my destiny

■ Ready communications with home and office via electronic mail and satellite telephones can be a mixed blessing – even when these precocious systems are actually working.

Take stockbroker Rob Owen's electronic mailbag of yesterday; while he got an affectionate message from his wife, Lisa, he also received a lengthy missive on inflation in Romania. Rob's boss obviously thinks that the young Everester is pining for news of eastern European economies. Receiving the call cost Rob $50 (£31), but at least the rest of the team found it good mickey-taking value.

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Albanian gunmen wound British diplomats

TWO British diplomats were shot and wounded yesterday on the outskirts of the Albanian capital, only the latest in a line of diplomats to feel the sharp end of the Balkan state's descent into lawlessness and anarchy following the collapse last year of a series of so-called "pyramid" investment schemes in which much of the population had invested.

Vice-Consul David Bicker and deputy Catherine Jones were shot in the stomach and arm respectively by masked gunmen who stopped their car and robbed them on the outskirts of Tirana as the two were on their way back from lunch. Mr Bicker and Ms Jones were taken to hospital but released after treatment. Last month, a European Union monitor was shot and wounded by armed men who took away his car. A Greek officer was stopped at gunpoint and forced to give up his car and his gun.

Virgin balloonist dies

THE balloonist who saved Richard Branson's life last year died yesterday, three months after suffering multiple injuries in a parachuting accident, writes Steve Boggan.

Alex Ritchie, 52, who climbed outside the Virgin Challenger capsule when it began plummeting to the ground during Mr Branson's round-the-world attempt in January 1997, died from septicaemia after undergoing a hip operation. His family maintained a vigil at his bedside at London's Middlesex Hospital until he died. Last night, Mr Branson said: "Alex was a brilliant friend and also a brilliant engineer." **Obituary, page 18**

Scientist urges food crisis body

AN INDEPENDENT advisory body should be set up to prevent a BSE-type crisis happening again, a leading specialist in microbiology said yesterday.

Professor Richard Lacey, who was the first scientist to warn that BSE could spread to humans, said the body was needed to ensure independent research was adequately funded. "I've yet to see any proper proposal of independent academic status in funding research," he said.

E.coli death inquiry

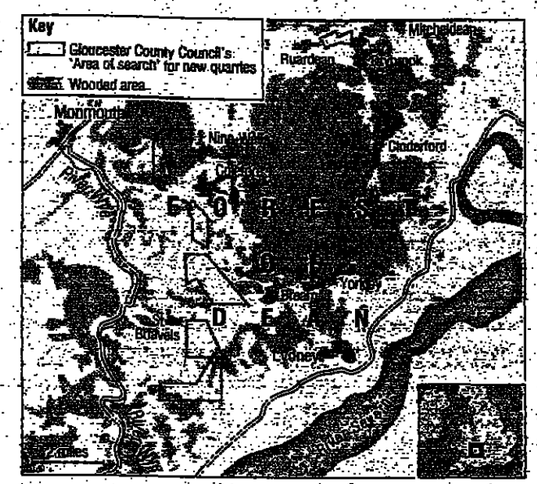
A HOSPITAL that treated victims of the world's worst *E.coli* O157 outbreak is investigating claims that it failed to diagnose the infection in a woman who later died. Yesterday a spokesman for Law Hospital in Carluke, Lanarkshire, confirmed it had received a formal complaint from James Millar – whose wife Margaret, 67, died on 13 March – but declined to comment further.

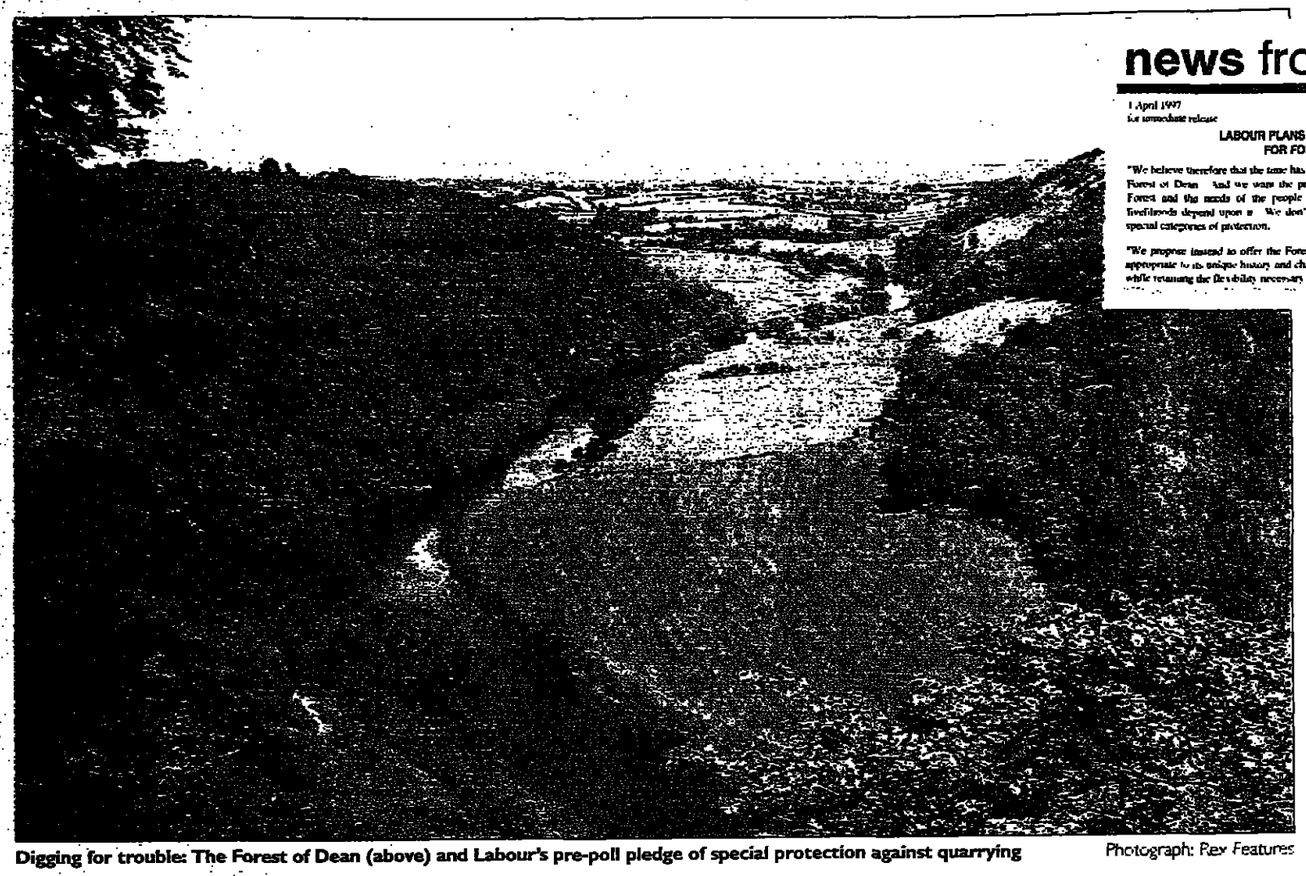
'Sockman' raises eyebrows

THE arrival of a bronze cast figure of a naked man wearing just a sycamore leaf and a pair of socks is causing controversy in a Midlands town. Sponsored by Labour-run Charwood council, the £23,000 *Sockman* by Shona Kinloch will stand in Loughborough's Market Place, but some locals are angry at its cost.

هكذا من الأصل

How ministers broke their promises to one of the most beautiful parts of Britain





news from Labour

1 April 1997
for immediate release

LABOUR PLANS SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR FOREST OF DEAN

"We believe therefore that the time has come to offer special planning protection to the Forest of Dean. And we want the protection to reflect the unique character of the Forest and the needs of the people who live in and around it, many of whose livelihoods depend upon it. We don't propose simply to apply any of the existing special categories of protection.

"We propose instead to offer the Forest of Dean a new 'custom built' special status appropriate to its unique history and character which matches up to the threat it faces while retaining the flexibility necessary to ensure a secure future for local communities

Digging for trouble: The Forest of Dean (above) and Labour's pre-poll pledge of special protection against quarrying Photograph: Rex Features

EXCLUSIVE

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

THE Government is refusing to fulfil a firm election pledge to give special protection against quarrying and other harmful development in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire.

The forest, lying between the valleys of the Wye and the Severn and the most ancient hunting forest in England, is facing the threat of giant limestone quarries which may have to be dug to meet the Government's massive target for crushed rock for the roads and construction industries.

The adjacent Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is also at risk.

The specific and unambiguous promise of special protection was given personally by the then shadow environment secretary, Frank Dobson, at a meeting in the forest one month before the election last year.

Mr Dobson's pledge was put out on an official Labour Party press release and featured prominently in the election literature of the Labour candidate for the Forest of Dean, Diana Organ.

Local campaigners feel it helped her capture, with a lower than average swing to Labour, what had been a Tory-held constituency (as Gloucestershire West) for 18 years.

However, Mr Dobson switched briefs to health after the election and at two meetings in the past six months the environment department's planning minister, Richard Caborn, has made it clear the Government has no intention of setting up the special protection regime Mr Dobson promised.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions said yesterday: "Richard Caborn has met Diana Organ and local delegations. There is no immediately available one-off solution for the forest."

Instead, campaigners against the quarrying threat are being told to work through the traditional planning process. Local people, who last month delivered 8,000 postcards to Downing Street asking Tony Blair when the promise was going to be kept, are now talking hotly of betrayal.

Bill Hobman, Labour chairman of the Forest of Dean district council, said: "I do have to say I am extremely disappointed that what was a categorical statement made without us asking, which I take to be an election pledge, is not being honoured by the minister."

Ken Secrett, a resident who founded Hewelsfield Against Quarrying, one of a number of pressure groups, said: "The Labour Party gave a simple straightforward promise of custom-built special planning status for the forest, which undoubtedly won many votes and influenced the election result in a marginal constituency. Now the Government seems determined to renege on its promise and I think it is a disgusting betrayal.

"It reinforces the cynicism in which politicians are held in this country."

The Forest of Dean, which was considered for designation as Britain's first national park in 1938 but was left for the Forestry Commission to protect, was once notable for coal mines and other industrial sites.

But tourism now underpins its economic future.

The threat to the forest and Wye valley comes from the Government's policy for minerals planning, still based on the outdated "predict and provide" approach – work out how much you think you will need and then try and provide it, whatever the consequences – which John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, abandoned for housing policy earlier this year.

"Predict and provide" means the Government is chasing a target of 1.9 billion tons of crushed rock for the roads and construction industries by 2006 and Gloucestershire County Council has been told to find 22.4 million tons as its share by that date – which it cannot do at present extraction rates.

Six months before the election the county council selected several parts of the forest as areas of search for limestone quarries, sparking a protest from residents who feared not only massive new scars on the landscape but pressure from lorries on the forest's minor roads.

Mr Dobson responded at a public meeting at Clearwell Castle in the forest in April last year. Accompanied by Mrs Organ, he said: "Today the Forest of Dean is faced with proposals for mineral workings, in particular limestone quarrying on a scale which poses a major threat ... the time has come to offer special planning protection to the Forest of Dean. We don't propose simply to apply any of the existing special categories of protection. We propose instead to offer the Forest of Dean a new 'custom-built' special status appropriate to its unique status and character."

There were precedents for Mr Dobson's promise: such custom-built planning status has already been given to other areas, including the Norfolk Broads and the New Forest. Mr Caborn, however, has shown no interest. Mr Dobson also promised a sweeping consultation exercise about the plan after the election – which has not taken place either. Mrs Organ has led two delegations of local people to see Mr Caborn about Mr Dobson's promise and received, in effect, a dusty answer. She was not available for comment yesterday.

■ The Government is to publish a White Paper on the future of the countryside later in the year. Michael Meacher, the environment minister, said it will set out a "new vision" of rural life.

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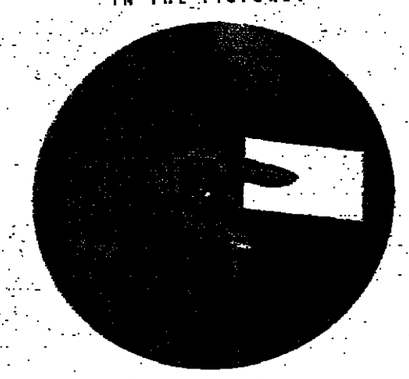
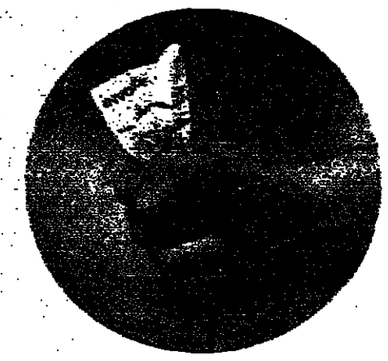


(a) A business card with nothing printed on it.
(b) The back of a business card.
(c) The back of a business card – I can use the back of my business cards to print a description of my product and pricing.

WHAT IS THIS?



(a) An angry customer – I'll hide till he's gone.
(b) An angry customer – I suppose I'd better pacify him.
(c) An angry customer – he's brought something to my attention, he deserves to be treated so well he'll become a loyal fan.

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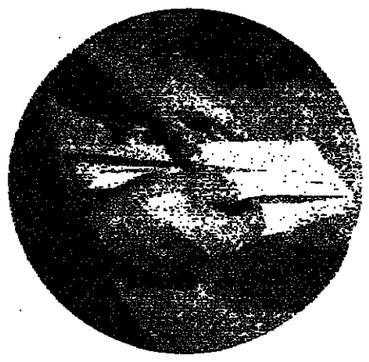

(a) Yes – pay them as soon as I get them.
(b) Yes – pay them on the due date.
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British bad faith leaves legacy of hate

How Balfour failed both Jews and Arabs

By Robert Fisk
Middle East Correspondent

ISRAEL 50

BRITAIN'S honeymoon in Palestine was short-lived. It began with Allenby's triumphant entry into Jerusalem in 1917 and ended, in Churchill's own words, in the "hell disaster" of 1948. Both Jew and Arab were betrayed by the empire which was given a League of Nations protectorate in the Holy Land in the aftermath of the First World War.

Britain had promised the Jews a homeland in Palestine – but had also promised the Arabs freedom in all their lands in return for their support in the war against the Ottoman Turks. In reality, we broke our promise to both of them.

The Arabs watched Britain retreat from its obligations in the face of the UN's vote for an Israeli state; the Jews found that they got only half of Palestine – although Balfour had indicated that the whole of the territory might be their homeland. And when 700,000 Arab Palestinians fled their homes in what was to become Israel, we watched and – save for a few shots fired in defence of Haifa – forgot the victims.

Even today, the ruthless war fought out between Jew and Briton – and our failure to honour our promises to the Arabs – antagonise relations between Britain and Israel and between Britain and the Arabs. Neither side can forget what happened 50 years ago. Jews murdered Britons and Britons beat and hanged and sometimes murdered Jews. Arabs and Jews slaughtered each other for the land under Britain's control. When the last British troops packed their kit bags, they symbolised the end of empire and the end of any serious British role in Middle East politics for a generation. Many of them left under fire.

It all seemed simpler when Balfour made his declaration, anxious at the time to persuade world Jewry (especially in the United States) to support the Allied cause against Germany. "His Majesty's Government," he said, "view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish People, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object ..." Less attention was taken to Balfour's warning that "nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine."

Equally little attention has been paid since to the word "Palestine", for Britain was clearly envisaging all of Palestine – including what is now the West Bank (in antiquity, more Jewish than the Mediterranean coast) – as a Jewish "homeland". Jewish writers, with the brave exception of historians like Benny Morris, have paid equally little attention to Balfour's reference to "non-Jewish communities". And why should they? It was Balfour himself who wrote privately in 1918 that "in Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country". For him, Zionism was "of far profounder import than the desire and prejudices (*sic*) of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land".

And so it turned out. As Arab suspicion and then fury increased against the British, as they allowed European Jews into Palestine, so Jewish frustration increased at the British restrictions on immigration. Throughout the Second World War, Jew and Arab largely declared a ceasefire; many joined the British Army. Their graves lie together at Alamein - though when the then British foreign secretary Malcolm Rifkind insisted that the Israelis should be allowed to commemorate their dead on the 50th anniversary in 1992, five Israelis flags – but not a single Palestinian flag – fluttered over the battlefield.

Moshe Dayan, future warrior of Israel, lost his eye to a Vichy French sniper liberating Lebanon in 1941.

Even before the war ended, the Palestine conflict resumed with bloodthirsty intent. In 1944, Jewish gunmen assassinated Britain's minister-resident in Cairo, Lord Moyne. The *Observer* blamed "Jewish fascism." In 1946, Menachem Begin's Jewish militants in Jerusalem blew up the King David Hotel, headquarters of British forces in Palestine – a "terrorist" act if ever there was one, the ninth most horrific this century, according to the British. It killed 91, including Arabs and Jews. The Jewish Agency denounced the bombing – though few Jews could forget how Britain persuaded the Turks to prevent East European Jews travelling through the Bosphorous to Palestine in their flight from the Nazis. Those Britons who had fought and died to liberate the death camps of Europe were now being attacked by the survivors in Palestine. The British hanged Jews for "terrorism". The historian Martin Gilbert, in his new history of Israel, recalls the names of three: Avshalom Haviv, Yaakov Weiss and Meir Nakar.

In revenge, the Jews hanged two British Army sergeants – whose names, Marvin Paice and Clifford Martin, are not recorded by Mr Gilbert in his new book. Their bodies were booby-trapped after their strangulation.

"Must our Boys Die?" the *Daily Mail* asked, urging an early British retreat. The *Mail* got its way. The *Times* commented with prescience that the violence in Palestine was "a fan to flame the smouldering resentment of the Arabs who campaign already that they are victimised by terrorism and now threaten in their turn to resort to force." The British left behind them a resentful Israel and a cruelly dispossessed community of Palestinians, most of whom held deeds to their land issued by the British mandate authorities as well as the Ottomans. Their brown Palestine passports were identical to those of the British, complete with lion and unicorn and "Dieu et Mon Droit" at the top. But they had no rights. The British, for all their First World War promises of independence for the Arabs, no more protected the Arabs of their mandate than the Jews.

Flashback: Jews on a British armoured car celebrating in 1947 after the United Nations had accepted the idea of partitioning Palestine Photograph: Reuters

Europe's fruitless search for peace

BEIRUT — Poor Robin Cook. Abused as an anti-Semite by a Jewish demonstrator at the illegal Jewish settlement at Har Homa - in Arabic, Jebel abu Ghoneim - he claimed that the slur hurt. Apparently unaware that anyone who questions Israel's policies towards the Arabs will be slandered as a racist, he took it personally. At least President Chirac understood its real meaning when he endured a similar barrage during a visit to Israel in 1996. Any European leader who contradicts the Israeli government should expect the same treatment.

Europe's policy towards the Middle East is both eminently reasonable and invariably rejected. Long before the Americans accepted Yasser Arafat's transformation from "super-terrorist" to super-statesman, the Europeans were talking to the PLO. It is said Britain's ambassador to Tunis was helping Arafat to draft his speeches between 1988 and 1992. After all, it was the Venice declaration of 1980 which stated that the PLO should be "associated" with peace negotiations.

Four years later, European foreign ministers supported "the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that this implies." In 1987 EC declarations deplored Israel's "repressive measures ... which are in violation of international law and human rights." Long before the Oslo agreement Europe had been seeking a just peace in the Middle East. But once Oslo had been signed - worthless signatures, it now appears - Europe's impotence was made apparent.

The EU could finance the new Middle East peace, the US said, but could have no voice in it. They could pay - but would not be allowed to talk. And so, lulled by the self-indulgence of the Norwegians who brokered a treaty without international guarantees, we went along with this arrangement. And whenever a European minister suggested mildly that America was no longer an unbiased peace broker, that Washington was refusing to force the Israelis to comply with the peace, he or she was told to shut up.

For the problem is that Europe does not have the courage to formulate a common foreign policy - and thus has no common policy on the Middle East. In frustration, the Arabs now call on the Europeans to save them; and they forget that it was European powers who betrayed their demand for independence after the 1914-18 war. In their anger, the Israelis ask the Europeans what right they have to intervene; and they remember that the slaughter of 6 million Jews in the Nazi Holocaust was a uniquely European crime.

So what role can Europe have? Little at present, it seems. Ex-foreign secretary Malcolm Rifkind, presumably forgetting his own lamentable Middle East performance, has criticised Mr Cook for shaking hands with a Palestinian at Har Homa. For daring to shake hands with an occupant of the occupied lands Mr Cook has been turned down as a dinner guest in London by at least one Jewish group. Similar remarks were made by French Jews when France allowed Mr Arafat to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg a decade ago. The French government responded that their citizens must be mature if they wished to act on the world stage and host the EU parliament.

But maturity is not the hallmark of EU member-states. Their attempt to bring peace to Algeria has been pathetic. Their ability to calm tempers between Greece and Muslim Turkey has been equally abject. True, they see the explosion coming in the Middle East, and have good reason to be fearful. The Muslim and Jewish worlds will for ever be our territorial neighbours and they will never be neighbours of the US, however much power the latter has in the Middle East.

Maybe the EU should make its financial generosity contingent on political involvement in the region's future. But this would be a tough policy for a continent so weak it needs Washington to help sort out its squabbles in Ireland and Bosnia. So when it comes to Europe 50 years after Israel's creation, don't hold your breath.

Robert Fisk

Arafat's battle with Hamas pushes Palestinians to war

By Patrick Cockburn
in Jerusalem

ARE THE Islamic militant organisation Hamas and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority on the verge of the sort of savage feud now convulsing Algeria and Egypt? The symptoms are there: Denunciations of the Palestinian security forces as stooges of Israel by Hamas; arrests of Islamic militants; fear on the part of Mr Arafat that Hamas is undermining his authority.

It started with the strange death of Muhyideen al-Sharif. The mutilated body of the Hamas bomb-maker - high on Israel's wanted list - was found two weeks ago after an explosion in a Hamas arsenal in Ramallah, north of Jerusalem.

It soon emerged he had been murdered and the bomb was part of an unsuccessful cover-up.

Hamas claims Sharif died at the hands of Israeli agents, possibly working with Palestinian security. The Palestinian Authority says he died at the hands of Imad Awadallah, another Hamas leader, in a row over $800,000 (£500,000) transferred to the Izzedin al-Qassem brigades, the military wing of Hamas. It says it has the 9mm pistol used to kill him and has discovered the apartment where he died. It even has an alleged signed confession by a participant.

Mr Arafat is eager to prove it was Hamas, not Israel, which killed Sharif because he does not want to see his strategy of trying to woo the US and the Europeans ruined by another Hamas suicide-bombing campaign. This would give Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, the excuse to suspend talks on partial Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

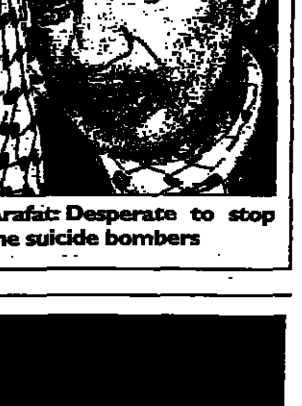
For this reason he has arrested 60 Hamas activists, though Hamas say the real figure is 300. Palestinian journalists who have interviewed Hamas members have been called in for questioning. It is the most serious confrontation between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, the only effective Palestinian opposition, since Mr Arafat's police opened fire on an Islamic demonstration in Gaza in 1994, killing a dozen people.

Mr Arafat is probably denting Hamas as an organisation. But the expertise, equipment and personnel needed for a suicide-bomb attack are limited. No doubt secret Hamas cells still exist in the West Bank which could carry one out. But the Palestinian leader also wants to convince the Palestinian public, who must bear the brunt of Israeli retaliation in the event of an attack, that Sharif died in an internal wrangle. There is strong but not overwhelming evidence for this. The Palestinian Authority relies for its circumstantial story on Ghassan Adassi, who signed a statement describing what happened. But the Hamas internet carries a letter from Mr Adassi saying his confession was extracted by torture.

"They beat me harshly and prevented me for sleeping for three continuous days," writes Mr Adassi. "They hung me by my hands from the ceiling of my cell. They compelled me to sign by force." This is all too likely to be true, since Palestinian Preventive Security routinely uses torture.

Conversely, the fact that Mr Adassi was tortured and his confession is untrue does not mean the details of how Sharif died, as revealed by the official investigation, are not true. In the apartment discovered in Ramallah the investigators say they have discovered traces of the explosives used to blow him up. They have also found fragments of food similar to that found in his stomach during the autopsy.

Jibril Rajoub, head of Preventive Security, denies Mr Adassi was mistreated, saying: "If he was strong enough to type this letter, I don't see how he was tortured."


Arafat: Desperate to stop the suicide bombers

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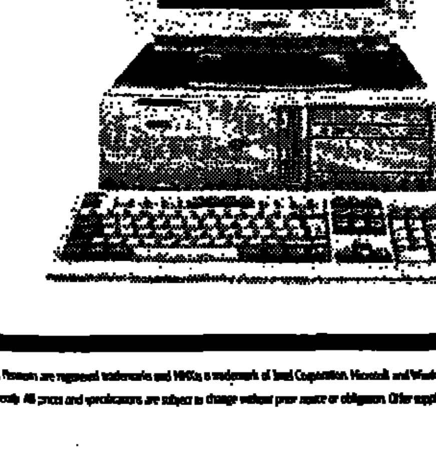

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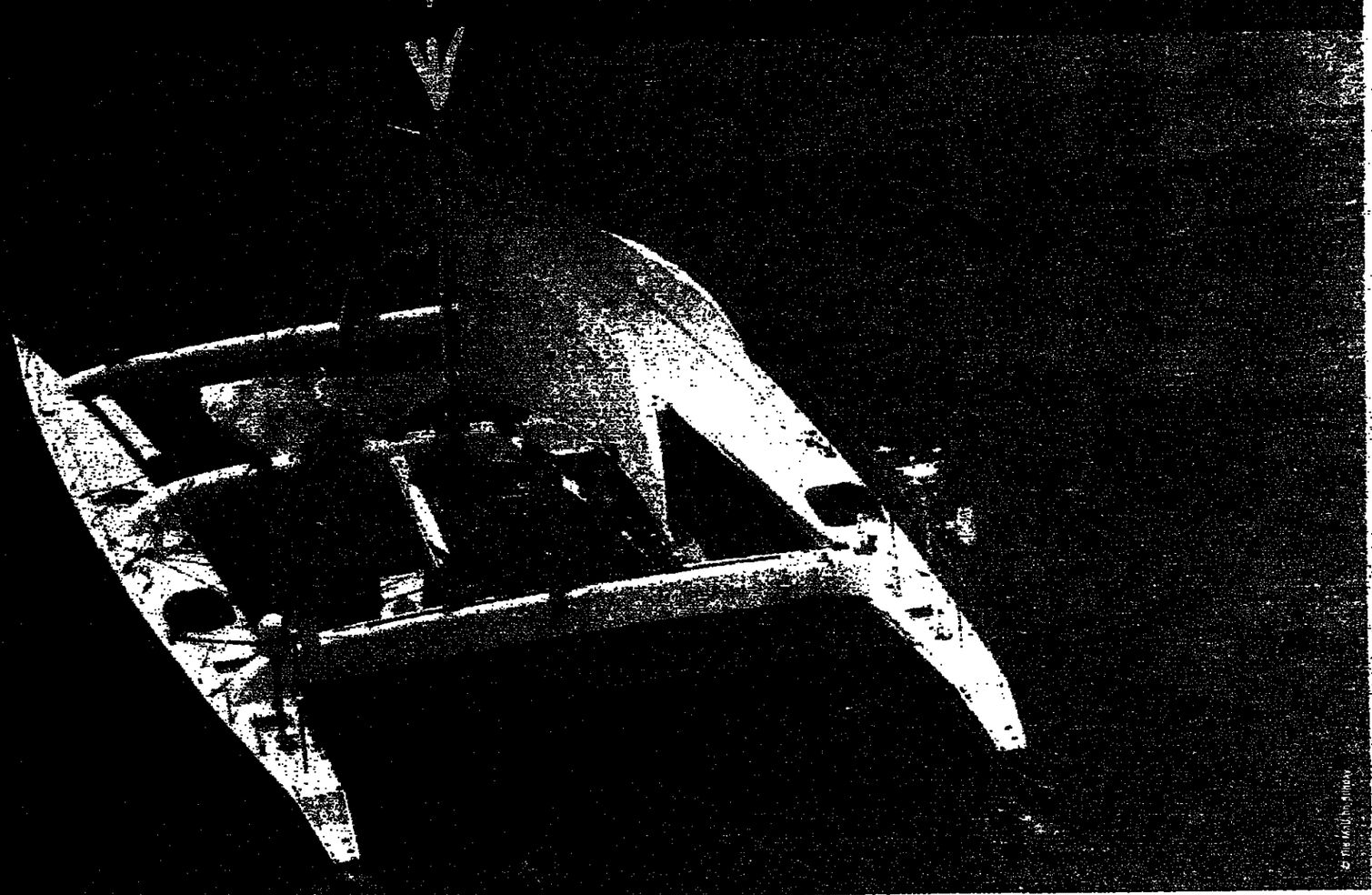

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ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

Michelangelo's quarry faces a ruinous future

By Anne Hanley
in Rome

THE TOWERING white cliffs which dominate the town of Carrara still echo with the sharp whine of quarrying equipment, but many of the men who carve the world's most sought-after marble from the Tuscan hills may soon be forced to abandon their ancient craft.

IMEG, Carrara's largest cutter and distributor of the marble favoured by Michelangelo, is in the hands of a receiver who is working to keep the company alive. "We don't even want to think about the effects of a definitive closure: it would be devastating for the whole area," said Maria Taddei at the Tuscany regional council. "When marble falls, it hurts. If this company goes under, a whole centuries-old system collapses."

That "system" has ensured Carrara's dazzling but over-abundant marble remains a costly luxury. Since the days of Michelangelo, co-operatives have hewn the stone from the hills above Carrara. The blocks are passed to craftsmen who cut them into usable slabs and set international standards for marble working, and then to companies which regulate the flow of stone. While hammers and chisels have given way to machines, and the market has shifted from Europe to up-and-coming countries of the Middle and Far East, the system has remained firmly in place.

"Without the system, there would be no checks and balances, nothing to keep the price from plunging," said Ms Taddei. Until it was declared bankrupt this week, IMEG dominated the system. Without IMEG, the Carrara marble industry may implode. "The system is vital, and IMEG is vital to the system," said a Carrara councillor, Ildo Fusani, who put the company's woes down to "incomprehension and lack of communication" between former owners, the local Petacchi family and an Israeli businessman, David Fisher.

Attempts by Mr Fisher to streamline operations by closing peripheral plants and laying off workers did little to improve the atmosphere. When a fire devastated IMEG headquarters, locals put it down to arson. But Carrara's town council is determined to keep the company alive, said Mr Fusani.

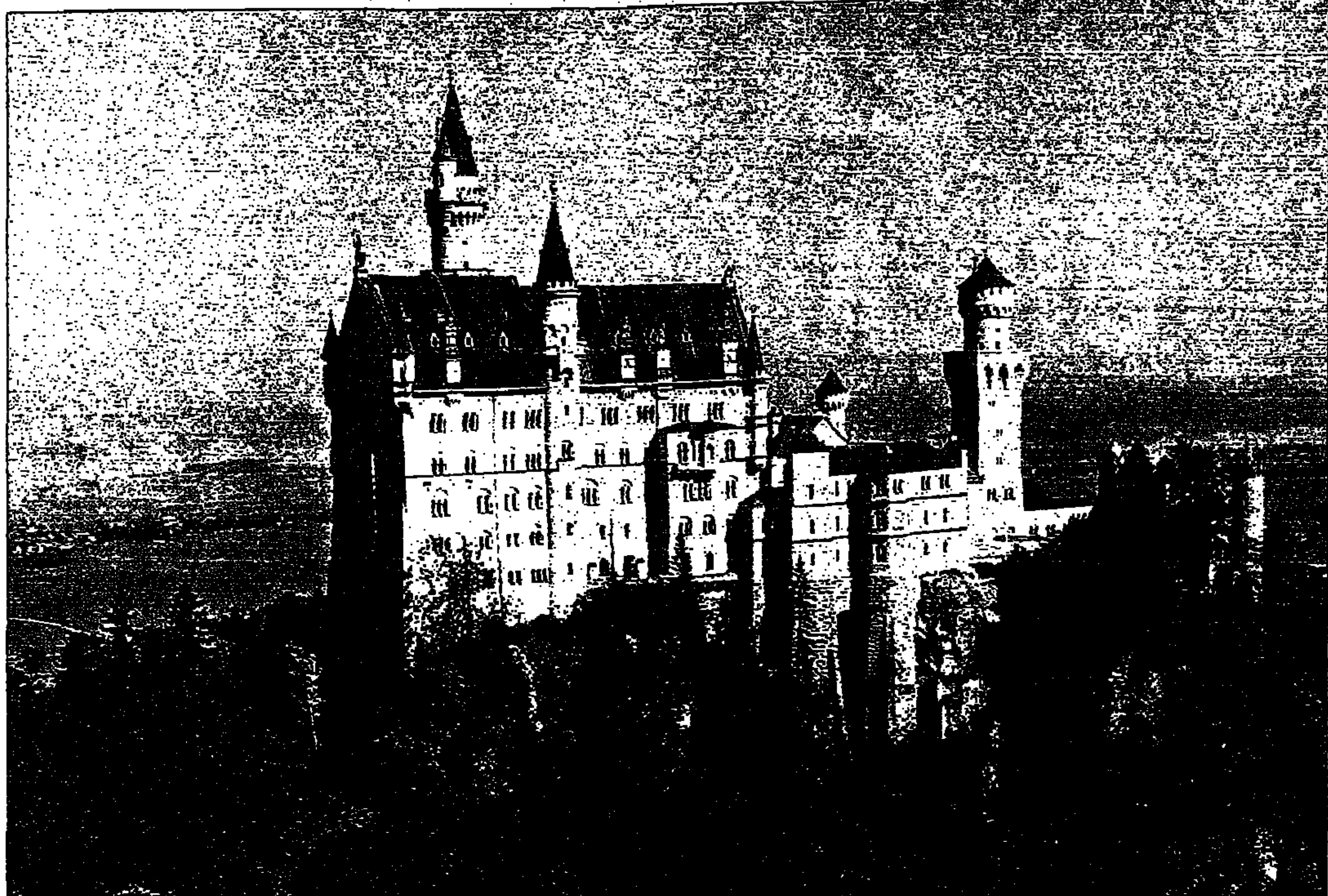
'David': Hewn from a block of Carrara marble

Purchasers are being sought in Italy and abroad. IMEG employees are being urged to consider a buy-out, and local business figures are studying the possibility of a concerted takeover. "But it's such an unwieldy company it's not going to be easy to sell it," said the owner of small marble concern, Mr Fusani said: "The three stages of the marble industry have to be kept together. This isn't protectionism, this is common sense. It's the only way Carrara can work."

For Carrara, keeping the marble sector going is vital: half the 3.6 trillion lire (£1.2bn) of stone exported by Italy in 1996 was Carrara marble. Moreover, the industry and its associated services are the biggest local employers. "If a company like IMEG dies, a part of the town dies," said the quarry owner. "Everyone pays: the truck drivers, the suppliers, even the cleaning contractors." Yet there are those who have been expecting a crisis in Carrara's marble industry for some time.

The British sculptor Matthew Spender, a Tuscany resident, says a crisis has been inevitable since the emphasis in Carrara shifted too far towards profit and away from the marble and its artistic potential, the factor which made the area's stone world-famous. "Marble has stopped being a craft and has become an industry," said Spender, who readily admits to "picking up bits and pieces from the quarries whenever I need them.

"The people involved no longer see the stone as a material which may contain the most beautiful thing on earth. All they are interested in is eating up the mountain and making money out of it," he said. "That's not what Carrara is about."


Trouble in Fairyland: King Ludwig's Schloss Neuschwanstein, his most famous castle and the focus of a heated row over hotel development

Prince besieged at Ludwig's castle

By Imre Karacs
in Bonn

THE most famous of Mad King Ludwig's fabled castles in Bavaria is at the centre of a dispute that pits a great aristocratic family against local farmers and conservationists.

Schloss Neuschwanstein, the jewel in the crown of the "Fairytale King", is alleged to be under threat from a prince residing in a rival – if somewhat less splendid – palace near by. At the foot of the cliff upon which Bavaria's number one tourist attraction is perched, Prince Max Emanuel von Thurn und Taxis wants to build a hotel.

Not an unreasonable proposition for a village that receives more than a million visitors every year, argue many people. The T&T concern already runs a "sport and seminar" centre, offering para-gliding, river-rafting, mountain-biking and a round or two of golf. But now the Prince wants to extend his little golf course and erect a 5-star hotel on his own land, within view of Neuschwanstein. "We need a good hotel here, because the ones that exist in the village are aimed merely at tourists," he says. The venture would tap a new market, attracting rich customers who wish to combine business and pleasure.

The trouble is, opponents retort, his "monster hotel" would destroy the scenery that draws tourists to the village of Schwangau in the first place. A leading conservationist has said the Prince's plans amount to an "onslaught on the fairy-tale world of King Ludwig".

Bavarians are too respectful to say the word "mad" of the sovereign who bankrolled Wagner, commissioned a string of architectural follies and drowned himself in a lake in 1886. To besmirch his legacy, as the Prince is alleged to have done, is still tantamount to high treason.

Prince Max is trying desperately to clear his blackened reputation. He is resigned to erecting the "Golf Academy" on the existing golf course. More importantly, he has agreed to shrink the hotel complex. From the initial 150 rooms, he cut out 25 and re-submitted the plans to the village council. Yet at last month's council meeting, the plans were thrown out again. "We fight on," the Prince vows. He now proposes to rub another 25 rooms out of the blueprint in an attempt to placate his opponents. But that may not do the trick, either, because the row is no longer just about golf.

The loudest protest is coming from the farmer whose land borders the princely dominions. The neighbour is untroubled by the altered view of Ludwig's castle; he is worried about the noise. To be precise, he fears that hotel guests will be so put out by the clanking of cowbells – the farmer's – that they will all come complaining to him. And the last thing a Bavarian farmer wants on his doorstep is whingeing tourists.

No sign of German efficiency when the tap starts dripping

BONN DIARY

Imre Karacs

AFTER nearly half a year of waiting, we finally have cold as well as hot water in our bathroom. There are probably thousands of unemployed plumbers out there, but finding one that is willing to fix your tap in a hurry proved nearly impossible.

The few that work are sheltered from competition by a myriad of regulations, and are therefore free to toy with the customer, charge enormous rates and be as rude as they please. With this in mind, I am happy to relate the experience of a senior government figure, who recently tried to summon a plumber.

"Cash in hand or on account?" the master inquired. The official tried to explain that the government was not about to sanction tax fraud. "Fine," the craftsman replied. "For those jobs, there is a three-month waiting list." Guess which method of payment the state chose.

ONE advantage of living in a village of a capital is our proximity to Mother Nature. Instead of domesticated pigs charging through gardens, which I gather is the closest Londoners get to the wilderness, we get boar. We hear them rustling outside our window at night, and at day-time can see their tell-tale imprints in the mud.

The best places from which to observe the hairy beasts are the lookout posts which dot the Kottenforst, the woods surrounding Bonn. But lately these rickety towers have been vanishing. Although they are on public land, they are owned by people who lease hunting plots from the council. Every so often, the leases are put up for auction, and if there is a new owner, he is usually expected to strike a deal with his predecessor and agree an equitable price. This time, the German genius for compromise seems to have eluded the two hunters, so the previous owner took out his chainsaw and chopped his worthless towers down. Suddenly, the life expectancy of wild boar has shot up.

Le tout Bonn is scandalised by scurrilous reports that the town's most famous son, Ludwig van Beethoven, may have died from the booze. Hot on the heels of a discredited book alleging that Goethe was gay, come revelations that Beethoven's list of well-known ailments had stemmed from the bottle.

Beethoven: Liked a drop

The composer was not entirely at fault, it has to be said. Rather than the alcohol, it was the lead-based additives which caused his rapid decline, including the deafness and foul mood which afflicted him in the latter stages of his life. Nevertheless, the implication is that, had Ludwig gone a bit easier on the sauce, he might have been able to extend his symphonic score into double figures. So it's all down to Viennese plonk, we are told. In the days before anti-freeze, the Austrians apparently mixed lead compounds into the wine in order to reduce its sourness. The maestro was partial to Rhine wine, but could not afford to have it imported in the copious quantities he required. Rhinelanders' pride, sagging under the shame of *Liebfraumilch*, is salvaged.

"WE do not invest in the Euro – Do you?" Adverts with this kind of eye-catching slogans have been proliferating lately in the press, urging Germans to raid their piggy-banks before Brussels does.

So where should they hide the million or three they have been stashing away, pfennig by pfennig, over the years? A quick trawl through the classifieds nets some exotic solutions: Sink it into cargo ships, suggests one company. Buy US high-tech shares, implores another. (Motto: "The euro comes – the dollar stays").

A company based in Austria is trying to dazzle euro-refugees with "diamond shares", while a Swiss firm is promising good prospects in West African gold mines. But for the truly adventurous, nothing beats the lure of an "off-shore firm", operating from an address on Finchley Road, north London.

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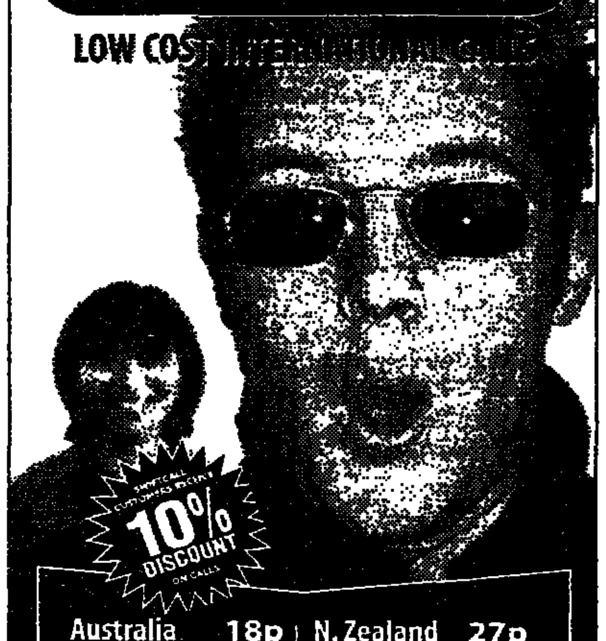

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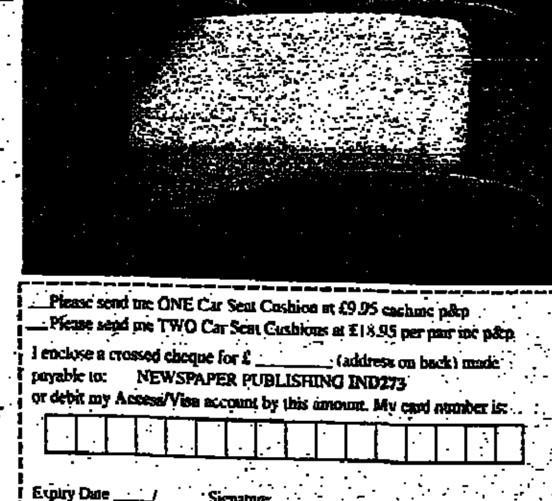

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Deadly red tide slaughters fish in Hong Kong

By Stephen Vines
in Hong Kong

IT LOOKS like a biblical plague. The waters around Hong Kong have succumbed to a scourge known as the red tide, which is gobbling up marine life. This lethal build-up of toxic microscopic organisms has happened before but never with the vengeance with which it has hit Hong Kong in recent weeks. Sham Chun-hung, assistant director of agriculture and fisheries, said yesterday that it had wiped out 150,000 tons of fish, half of Hong Kong's fish stock, in just four weeks. It is still spreading fast.

The red tide gets its name from the tinge that colours the sea when it is filled with algae carrying toxic substances. When these are released into the water the fish suffocate. Humans entering the affected water suffer from skin irritations, vomiting, diarrhoea and, in extreme cases, paralysis.

Mr Sham graphically described the speed with which the red tide moves: "Within a couple of hours it multiplies to a level that the fish cannot tolerate and they are wiped out." The waters around Hong Kong are filled with the inert bodies of dead fish floating on the surface surrounded by a blood-coloured murky mess.

The authorities are not sure why this year's red tide is so much worse than previously, when it came and went much more quickly. One theory is that Hong Kong has fallen victim to climatic changes induced by the phenomenon El Nino, which have been warming the oceans and causing droughts elsewhere in Asia.

The environmental group Friends of the Earth in Hong Kong is convinced that the problem has been worsened by the illegal discharge of industrial waste into the sea by heavy industries in southern China.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong island beaches, which are usually filled to capacity over the holiday weekend, were dominated by red flags warning people not to enter the water. The warning was widely heeded, although some swimmers seemed oblivious to the risk.

Although the algae which kills fish and affects humans is clearly toxic, the government has told Hong Kong residents that it is safe to eat the dead fish. Government experts maintain the algae affects the fishes' respiratory system but will not harm humans eating the carcasses. This view is challenged by those who believe that the poison enters into other parts of the body.

"I won't say it's under control but I would say the situation has stabilised," said Mr Sham, who now faces the problem of dealing with a mountain of compensation claims from fish farmers.

Nature has not been kind to Hong Kong since China resumed sovereignty over the territory last July. First, it was hit by unprecedented torrential rains; then there was the outbreak of bird flu, which led to the slaughter of all the territory's chickens. Now fish, the other staple item of the Cantonese diet, is under threat, too.

Poisoned waters: Hong Kong fish farmer Cheng Chi-ming yesterday counting his losses from the 'red tide' at Lamma Island Photograph: Reuters

Moscow mayor whips up a storm as wrong weather hits town

By Phil Reeves
in Moscow

THE MAYOR of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, has long been accused by his critics of striving to run a city state, isolated from the rest of Russia. Now he may go one step further: fed up with unexpectedly filthy weather, he wants his own forecasting service.

An angry Mr Luzhkov has threatened to sever all ties with Russia's national weather service after it failed to give any warning of the past two days of terrible weather, which have buried the capital under at least eight inches of snow.

Such matters are taken seriously by the mayor, not least because the city has to fork out large sums of money on emergency teams of sweepers, salters and icicle removers. He made no secret of his annoyance when the national forecasters, who predicted temperatures of 9C to 11C, turned out to be spectacularly wrong. It was "a deception", said the mayor's spokesman. Such "disinformation" has happened all too often this winter, and "bad forecasting has cost Moscow a great deal of money". The capital, he said, was contemplating starting its own weather service.

Nor was Mr Luzhkov, who is famously outspoken, alone in his outrage. The national weather service yesterday found itself fielding call after call from indignant Muscovites. A hapless weather-service official was wheeled on to a prime-time television programme wryly entitled "Hero of the Day".

The weather has special resonance for Muscovites, not least because it has done much to secure the capital's survival. The Russian winter helped to destroy Napoleon's invading army and kept Hitler at bay.

Last September, Mr Luzhkov tried to take personal control of it, dispatching aircraft into the skies to seed the clouds with iodine pellets to prevent them raining on Moscow's lavish 850th anniversary celebrations. Success was limited: on the final day of the jamboree, the heavens opened.

But not all Mr Luzhkov's subjects will share his irritation. Tonight, Spartak Moscow is to play the second leg of a Uefa cup match against Inter Milan. Russians often complain that they cannot achieve much in spring because the change of season affects their biorhythms. Today's conditions should suit the fans just fine.

Yuri Luzhkov: Incensed by weather forecast 'deception'

Mine flooding kills 56

FIFTY-SIX people were killed in a tanzanite mine disaster in northern Tanzania after flash floods. The disaster occurred near the northern farming town of Arusha. Workers were trapped as deep as 1,000 feet after the floods caused 14 pits to collapse. Tanzanite is a semi-precious stone unique to Tanzania and is mined using relatively primitive methods, often without safety equipment. — *Reuters, Nairobi*

Caramanlis ailing

THE former president Constantine Caramanlis, Greece's most revered elder statesman, was unable to breathe without mechanical assistance, denting hopes that he could regain his health. Mr Caramanlis, 91, was placed on a respirator yesterday after suffering a heart attack. He has been in failing health since retiring in 1995 after his second term as president, ending a 60-year political career that included a record six terms as prime minister. — *AP, Athens*

Clinton tells Latvia to talk

BILL CLINTON has written to President Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia, urging dialogue in Latvia's dispute with Moscow over the rights of Russian-speaking residents. Russia has launched a campaign against Latvia's policy on its Russian minority, cutting oil shipments to its neighbour. Most of the 700,000 Russian-speakers do not have Latvian citizenship. — *Reuters, Riga*

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Sporting life: Rugby at Dulwich College. Traditional British sports will be on the curriculum for Far-eastern pupils Photograph: Bill Rowntree

Britain's old school ties head East

Education is becoming a multi-million pound service industry, with some of our most famous public schools exporting their prestigious names to Asia. **Ben Russell** reports

A NEW crop of pupils will arrive for their first day at Harrow this month, donning the straw boaters and dark blue and grey uniforms which have been worn by Harrovians for generations. The youngsters will receive the traditional English public school upbringing and education, which have been part of Harrow's history since it was founded by Royal Charter in 1572.

Little will have changed since the school days of famous old boys like Winston Churchill, the Duke of Westminster and Pandit Nehru, the first prime minister of India, all raised on classics, rugby and cricket.

But rather than beginning their school careers strolling across 360 acres of chilly north London parkland, these latest recruits will embark on their education in the wet heat of a Thai spring.

Around 130 pupils are expected at the first classes of the new Harrow International School in Bangkok, to receive intensive tuition in English ready for the beginning of the school year proper in September.

Eventually the school hopes to attract 1,800 youngsters from across the Far East, who will doff their boaters to the beaks at a purpose-built site outside the Thai capital, designed to be a little oasis of old England.

Michael Liddiard worked at Harrow for 18 years before moving to found the international school. "The aim," he says, "will be to take a child at any time during his or her schooling and swap them with a child at Harrow without them being able to tell the difference."

The school will have an English head and staff, and will teach the full range of GCSEs and 25 A-levels currently enjoyed by Harrovians at home. Pupils will not be spared the compulsory Latin, but there will be additions. Girls will be welcome (the original Harrow is all-male) and the new school will also break with the original's tradition of boarding by offering places to day pupils.

The new school is just part of the multi-million pound industry which has grown up to capitalise on the academic reputation and social standing of Britain's public schools and universities. Until recently, that meant thousands of school and university students would come to Britain for their education, but Harrow's Far Eastern branch is part of a trend towards exporting our expertise to other countries.

The new Harrow school aims to draw in children from across the Far East – the sons and daughters of expat diplomats and businessmen, as well as locals. The proportion of Thai youngsters will be kept to 30 per cent, partly to satisfy local legislation and partly to ensure that English is used outside lessons as well as in class.

"The ethos, discipline and the Harrow education will be the same," Mr Liddiard said. "In the senior school the children will wear boaters and the uniform will be like the summer dress at Harrow.

"We are going to play cricket and rugby We will have an all-purpose sports ground with football and rugby pitches.

"People are looking for an old-fashioned schooling which provides their children with the impetus both to learn and to take part in learning. Local schools have 50 or 60 to a class and teaching is by rote. We will be providing classes with a maximum of 25 and children will be encouraged to take a full part in their education."

Fees will run to £3,750 a year, about one third of the cost of a place at Harrow in England. Staff say the collapse of Asian currencies may have helped the school's prospects, by inflating the cost of sending children to England.

As many as 20,000 foreign children board at private schools in Britain, and demand is growing. One in five comes from Hong Kong and the Far East, but substantial numbers hail from mainland Europe and North America. ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service, estimates that three-quarters of the foreign children at independent schools end up at UK universities.

It's a valuable trade: universities say that the 154,000 full time foreign students – 17 per cent of the total – bring in £575m a year in fees, and spend £756m a year while they are here.

Head teachers put their schools' popularity down to educational standards, and the desire to learn the international language of business. Privately they admit that public schools have become chic among the moneyed international classes.

Harrow is joining a minor invasion of the Far East by the public school fraternity. Dulwich College, which schooled PG Wodehouse and Raymond Chandler, opened a school on the Thai island of Phuket last year. The buildings, a Thai interpretation of Dulwich's Victorian premises in South London, are designed to evoke the English public school atmosphere.

Graham Able, master of the original Dulwich, said: "There is a perceived quality in English education, both at secondary and tertiary level, and certainly some people would rather go English than American."

> The spirit of the stiff upper lip will live on at the air-conditioned new Harrow

Dulwich, founded in 1619, has employed business tactics pioneered in the world of the burger bar and set up the International College as a franchise, using the London school's curriculum and name.

Franchising has become something of a dirty word in education after a series of high-profile scandals involving university courses licensed overseas. Mr Able admits that such ventures are a risk for an ancient institution, and has taken responsibility for checking his colleagues in Asia once a year during a personal visit to the new school.

At Pocklington School in Yorkshire, staff have opened up a foundation course for foreign students in collaboration with Hull University. Given the praise heaped on education abroad, it is perhaps surprising that the greatest growth is in students from France and Germany. Head teacher David Grey believes he that it is the breadth of our education which has great appeal. "It prepares children to be independent and go out into the world with a head on their shoulders. But I do think there's a certain social cachet about it."

The spirit of the stiff upper lip will certainly live on at the new air-conditioned Harrow, which will transplant the team sports of rugby and Harrow Football, an ancient game said to be suited to the Middlesex clay, to the heat. Michael Liddiard said: "It does get fairly hot here, but during the rainy season it's almost as muddy as it is in England."

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The writer of wrongs

There is no hiding place for the rich and privileged when Dominick Dunne turns his pen on them. **Susan Chenery** met him

Catalyst: Dominick Dunne sat through the trial of his daughter's killer and saw him jailed for two-and-a-half years

DOMINICK DUNNE was a failure once. Here in this town. Down and out in Beverly Hills. Weaving around drunk and stoned, his wife gone in disgust, the phone shatteringly silent. Failed films, substance abuse, the full self-destructo. "After 28 years as a TV executive and studio executive I had a failed marriage I couldn't let go of and a career that had let go of me. I was out of work for several years. I was desperate and broke. I couldn't pay the rent. I was desperate in every way. Hollywood's a very cruel place for a failure to be, I had become known as a failure. They will forgive us our lies, forgeries, cheating, even your murders on occasion. But they will never forgive you for failing." Humiliation after humiliation. At the end there was only one option. He had to get out of town. Fast.

When he came back it was in another incarnation. And when he came back, he came back with a vengeance. His new career would be shaped by the sadness of loss, fuelled by the steepness of his social fall and rise, coloured by all the experiences of his life and driven, finally, by the desire to put things right. When you emerge from your own private hell you are forever changed.

With nowhere to turn, Dominick Dunne drove distractedly into the Oregon mountains and checked into a guest house, suicidal, everything that mattered gone. Thinking his life was over, he instead went deep into himself and began to heal. "I lived on cans of hash because I didn't have much money. I quit drinking and I quit smoking grass. In the loneliness I found that all the bull of Hollywood was bull that I had filled myself with." And he began to write. The perfect occupation for the troubled, broke and alone. But, even so, for Dominick Dunne the pure crusading motivation was still to come. The impelling sorrow that would elevate him from good to great in his late-life career.

On a shelf in his hotel suite is a black-and-white photograph, faded and yellowing, of a young woman. Her thick dark hair swirls around her shoulders, her face is pale and fine, her dark eyes wide, lips slightly parted; she looks out of the frame with untramelled innocent curiosity. Her killer strangled his daughter for five-and-a-half minutes then left her to die. Her father will never get over her death. "I loved her," he says simply. "I think about her every day." Everything he does, everything he writes is atonement for the wrongful death of Dominique Dunne, actress. She had just completed her first feature film, *Poltergeist*. Filled with promise and choked to death at 22. Her killer got two and a half years. Her father got life. It is his sorrow. To the core. And his anger. Helpless, impotent, towering. May she rest in peace because her father never will.

"It absolutely changed my life. It is impossible to say in words what it did to my life. It made me a totally different kind of person. It was time to get serious. Her's was the first trial I had ever gone to and I began to understand this thing: that the rights of the killer on trial exceed the rights of the victim. The victims are forgotten. My ex-wife is a helpless invalid with multiple sclerosis. The defence even tried to stop her appearing in court in her wheelchair because she would arouse sympathy. When the killer got out of jail I hired a private investigator to follow him. I don't know what I was looking for or what I was going to do. I wanted to kill him. I was like a crazy person. I was obsessed with revenge. Finally I realised I couldn't go on like that. I had to put that rage into a positive thing." Now, like a man possessed, he writes for his life and for hers.

Her photograph stands there as a reminder, perhaps, a touchstone for what became his life's work. That fading face giving him the strength to persist. "I feel she protects me and has helped me. I ask for her help sometimes." The glass has cracked, jagged across her beautiful, porcelain face, seeming to poignantly symbolise the circumstances of her death and its aftermath. Her life was taken so callously by her former boyfriend, a chef with a history of violence towards women, who sweet-talked the jury and pretended to read the Bible through the trial. "He is not in love with me, Dad," Dominique had told her father, "he is obsessed with me."

No wonder her father went after OJ Simpson. A history of obsession and violence towards his slaughtered wife. The OJ case, too, had everything. Money, power, celebrity. A mansion, of course. And finally it had something else. Something against which Dominick Dunne constantly rails in his relentless crusade. The ineluctable fact that the rich in America can get away with murder. Literally. And often do. Everybody has their price. This makes Dominick Dunne really, really mad.

All his best-selling books are morality tales around this theme. He may be tiny and tubby and grey and speak in a slightly quavering voice, but he is fearless and forceful: the rich and powerful defendants' dogged worst nightmare. The conscience that they lack.

He follows their trials with morbid forensic fascination. Sits through months and months of quotidian legal argument, sifting through the evidence to make his own case, writing neatly in his little notebook. "When you have a million bucks to spend on your defence attorney you will win. If you can afford a high-priced defence attorney with a huge staff and huge resources you will win. If you have money you can get justice. There is a genuflection to money and fame."

There is something utterly correct about Dominick Dunne. In the cut of his navy jacket. In his old-fashioned morality and integrity. In his work, where he never puts a word wrong. When he chronicles the casual, brutal carelessness of high society, he is writing about curved marble staircases, of country clubs and summers of sailing and tennis, of magnificent rooms with fine paintings, shot silk and high ceilings through which he has walked all his life. He moves through fashionable society. He knows those perfectly proportioned rooms. He knows the smooth athletic arrogance of its youth. He knows how efficiently they can close ranks and cover up unfortunate slips of conduct, regrettable peccadillos, profligate, messy lives.

Beyond the endless, glittering parties of mere movie money, it is a world of power and beauty for whom publicity and scandal are too vulgar to even contemplate.

> 'When you have a million bucks to spend on your defence you will win. If you have money you can get justice. There is a genuflection to money and fame'

"My father used to describe them as the kind of people who can keep things out of newspapers," explains the Los Angelean old money heiress, Camilla, in *An Inconvenient Woman*. "There are about two or three hundred of us who dine together in various combinations, and we rarely widen the circle, and you rarely read about us in the newspapers... we never mix with the movie crowd, and only sometimes with the people from Pasadena, except for civic evenings or certain charities." This was the glowing world of Pamela Harriman, Babe Paley and Betsy Bloomingdale, who ran grand houses and staggeringly rich and powerful husbands with equal elan.

When Alfred Bloomingdale died on the job, so to speak, his socialite wife Betsy, understandably perhaps, abruptly cut his mistress out of his will. But Vicki Morgan did not go quietly. She was a desperate and therefore inconvenient woman. The ensuing scandal, my dear, was mortifying, the sniggering, the humiliation, the newspapers; just too, too awful. So common. Especially for such close personal and pretentious friends and advisors of the Reagans, who were then comically resident in the White House.

Vicki Morgan was later bludgeoned to death, and her male porn star friend found guilty. In *An Inconvenient Woman*, Dunne makes it clear that he believes the porn star is innocent: Flo got in the way of a rich woman, connected at the highest levels. Broke and frightened, she threatened to expose all in a book. You don't do that and get away with it. No siree. You do not forget your place with people like these. Not when the billionaire lover had questionable colleagues with secrets to keep. Too much, far too much, to lose. The waitress had to go. Simple.

Dominick Dunne speaks in the same clear and measured way in which he writes. Attention to detail. "I come from a rich Irish Catholic family. I come from Connecticut, my father was a surgeon. We were not rich like the Kennedys. We were lower case Kennedys. But I went to the same kind of schools as they did. I have always known them. Jackie and my wife went to this young ladies' school. Jackie was a year ahead of my wife and Lee was a year below. She knew Jackie. I met Jackie but I didn't really know her. I wrote a tribute about her when she died. I went to Bobby and Ethel's wedding. And when I was young and married and lived in Hollywood and Santa Monica, our great friends were Peter and Patricia Lawford, who had been Patricia Kennedy. We were two houses away from the beach in Santa Monica and Jack Kennedy would come in his helicopter and come for lunch when he was President. I mean it was a very glitzy glam time."

The Kennedys don't speak to him any more. Not since he covered the William Kennedy Smith rape trial. And then, as if that wasn't enough, *A Season in Purgatory*, a damning composite of the Kennedys and a novelistic indictment of their assumption of impunity.

For they are, after all, the model for everything he came to despise. He sees straight through the blinding charisma, always has. "I always thought they were great, the Kennedys. But after Chappaquiddick something happened to them. I just found that one of the most revolting episodes in our history. And then one thing after another happened. The Kennedys don't like me, no."

In *Vanity Fair* he wrote of the Smith rape trial: "The verdict, not guilty, was a disappointment to some, a cause for delirium to others, but a surprise to no one." Certainly not to Dominick Dunne. A Kennedy in jail? Unthinkable.

"It was so strange in Palm Beach after the trial. The Kennedy sisters were like dowager archduchesses of a royal house, believing in the divine right of kings, or Kennedys. They knew how to play it. The court was like a church. I was on one side of the aisle and they were on the other. I know them all and we never spoke. But I think the William Kennedy Smith trial was shaming for them all. Whether he got acquitted or not. It was a shameful episode of public tawdriness. I think it is a wonderful thing the way they all stick together when one of them is in trouble. They all arrive, the whole parade of the family was utterly fascinating. But somebody told me that they would stick by him through thick and thin, but after it was all over, when they were alone, they would have kicked the shit out of him."

The rape trial scandal may have been over for a Palm Beach not entirely unused to sex scandals and a titillated public but it would go on to star, thinly-disguised, in *A Season in Purgatory*. Well, you can't let the playful high spirits of golden youth get in the way of a commanding future, now can you? Not for a little thing like murder. The narrator is a writer, of course, doomed to live as an outsider, but who as a poor but bright schoolboy is shown largesse by a dazzlingly rich, glamorous and mesmerising large Irish Catholic family. Largesse for a price, that is. The price of silence. Harrison Burns is a bought and paid-for family retainer. The deal? His school fees are paid if he never speaks of the sex murder he has witnessed, committed by his beautiful, witty, charming friend, scion of the family.

"I really love *A Season in Purgatory*. That is the closest thing to me," Dunne confesses smiling, an oddly rare event.

He met Tina Brown, the editor of *Vanity Fair*, at a dinner party in New York just as he was about to go to Los Angeles for the trial of his daughter's murderer. "She commissioned a piece about it, she told me to keep a diary. It was the first article I ever wrote and it was her first issue. She is my dear friend. I came in with her from the first issue on. I work exclusively for *Vanity Fair* and have done for 12 years. It was the best place, it still is, I love it there".

People Like Us, my personal favourite, is a satirical exposé of New York society and the ascent and crashing descent of the ridiculous, self-conscious, vulgar and grasping nouveau riche on a collision course with jail, scandal and financial ruin. Published in 1988, it was a prescient parable to say the least. "It is absolutely about the Eighties. You know, I read what is absolutely my favourite novel by Anthony Trollope, called *The Way We Live Now*. It is one of the most fabulous books I have ever read. It is about the *nouveau riche* in London in 1860 and about a family that took over and how the old guard of everything got sucked into it because of the wealth and the kind of person they loathed but needed.

My God, I thought, that is New York now, today, that is it. And that is what gave me the impetus to do that. I moved in those circles. If you are a well-known person and people read your books and everything, they just invite you to all those things. So I went to all those billionaire things. I was fascinated. You know, I thought, 'I can do this'." So, of course, he betrayed them, as the writer must. "It got me into a lot of trouble. It was a very interesting learning experience. It scared me a bit at first and then I realised I don't care."

Because the writer, in the end, must be true to himself. Must find the truth and tell it. Cannot crave to be loved. Must be able to walk away.

Dominick Dunne moves uncomfortably in his chair. "I have walked a narrow line ever since I started to write." Because he is not a ghost at the feast. He is not like the rest of us journalists, glimpsing a world we can never inhabit, our noses pressed against the glass, to look but never touch. He is one of them.

In the end, though, he is essentially alone. A writer. Lunching alone at the Waldorf Astoria. Talking every day to his ex-wife and sons Griffin, an actor, and Alex, a writer. Writing, always writing.

Nearly 70, strong and vigorous, pondering the nature of evil. "I think there is a lot of evil around us, I truly do. I am not holding myself up as any bit of perfection because God knows I am not. I just believe in right and wrong. I truly do. It is getting all forgotten around us. Everything is corrupt everywhere. Ethics and morality seem to have gone out of our lives."

Susan Chenery will soon join the Independent on Sunday. This article is taken from her book, Talking Dirty, published in Australia in 1997

I believe I saw my mother's soul, an energy, leave her body

REVELATIONS: TANYA SARNE

The time: October 1976
The place: Notting Hill, London
The woman: Tanya Sarne – designer and creator of Ghost.

I ARRIVED back in London from Brazil with two small children; we were malnourished and had worms. I had no money, but I had my mummy. I'd gone to Brazil to find my husband and discover whether I still had a marriage. It took me a while to track him down, but Michael convinced me that he was soon going to make his film. He was planning to come back every week to a village in the middle of nowhere and give me money to live. But he didn't! It was soon pretty conclusive that my marriage was over, and I realised I was going to have support the children. However, I had terrible trouble returning to England because I'd had hepatitis and during my illness allowed myself to fall into a mass of red tape.

Arriving back, I was at rock bottom, on social security because I was too embarrassed to tell my parents how poor we were. However, my mother was a great supporter and giver of strength. Being an only child we were so close that our relationship felt like sisters. I suppose I thought she was immortal. Most importantly, she looked after my three and six-year-old children, so I was able to work.

I was late that day picking up the children and my mother was cross because she was tired and didn't feel well. But it was still a complete surprise when at four the next morning I had a phone call from the police asking me to come to my parent's house. Something had happened to my mother. My heart went into my mouth, but they wouldn't tell me anything more over the phone. I couldn't breathe or function, I was a lump of quivering, petrified flesh. When I arrived my father was in a terrible state and I learnt that my mother had died of bronchial pneumonia. The memory is so painful, it is really difficult to remember the exact events. The police were

still there, so I went upstairs and lay alone on the bed with my mother for a long time – maybe even 24 hours. I actually believe I saw my mother's soul leave her body, an energy, something seemed to move.

The only way I could relieve the pain was to drive my car, for days on end, as fast as I could and scream as loud as I could. My daughter never got it out of her, she refused to come to the funeral.

Shortly after my mother's death, I had a little dog with me and somehow I felt that this animal, Woofy, had been sent by my mother to keep an eye on me. It took me a year to function, beyond cooking or washing up and putting the children to bed. When finally I could think straight I was cold-blooded. I knew I was unemployable and needed to start a business so I threw my energy into that.

Trying to find the positive side of losing her so young, at just 56, my mother's death crystallised my personality much quicker than if it had not happened. Before, I didn't think of myself as somebody who was ambitious. I'd been chugging along, but this huge shot of electricity moved me that much quicker.

I had been very vulnerable and shy, contrary to what everybody thinks about me. I did things which even now shock me. I had some customers who refused to pay up, so I went into their offices and I took their equipment to the value of what they owed. I worked round the clock, staying up all night sewing damaged garments to deliver the next day. I think the manic working was my way of coping with the shock.

I frequently ask myself would I be able to do this business if my mother had not died? Before I might have started, but given up too easily, asking: "Mummy, what should I do" and she would have replied: "Darling you mustn't work so hard." When she was alive there had always been somebody to pick up the pieces. So in a sense I did not have to try that hard, but without her there was nobody to look after me – but myself! Yes there was my dad, but there was not much sympathy between us.

My huge regret is that my mother is not alive to see my success, while my father has never been able to say well done. My mother would have definitely been a Ghost addict, she loved clothes and had great style, indeed many of my ideas are a tribute to her. One of the reasons I use the fabric viscose is because it is very weight friendly; I was very aware of this problem because my mother had a constant battle. She also had a huge feeling for colour, everything was painted in different colours in the apartment, and now there is an awful lot of colour in the collection I'm dyeing at the moment. Yet I was thrown out of art class, and sewing come to that, because I'd no sense of colour. She certainly bequeathed me other talents too, like the ability to organise. I needed it to start Ghost and bring up children too. I've developed lots of talents I never knew I had.

I go and see her fairly regularly at Kensington Cemetery, sometimes to make her pretty, but other times because I'm downright confused and depressed and need to talk. I hope she knows what I am up to and that it makes her proud.

— Interview by Andrew G Marshall

هكذا من الأصل

A reputation that should be chiselled away

In the sculptor's centenary year, **Tom Lubbock** argues that while his standing is as monumental as his art, the work itself has always been overestimated

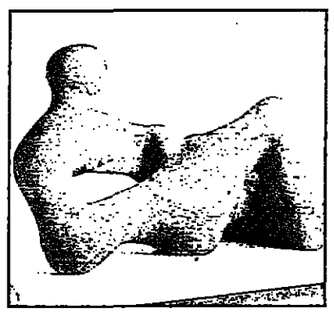
"FORMS that are vital to the life of mankind." That was Herbert Read's opinion in the early Sixties – and even allowing for critical hype, and long personal friendship, it's an astonishing claim: to say that a body of sculpture is somehow keeping humanity going. But back then, Henry Moore held a special place in the English mind. He was our greatest living sculptor, and continued to be until his death in 1986. He'd put British sculpture on the world map, and was putting his own all over it. He had a role we can't imagine any artist having today. The lumps remain, of course. It's his centenary this year.

And if all the Henry Moores in the world were to leave their parks and plazas, take the nearest coast road, and jump in the sea, would the life of mankind miss a heartbeat? Wouldn't it be very slightly enhanced? I hate the work of Henry Moore. I think it's stupid, wrong, and often repellent. I don't take the started-well-but-went-off-later line. With a few exceptions, I think it's bad right through. Mostly, though, I don't think about it, which is easy, because mostly nobody else does any more. Now, soon, there'll be exhibitions everywhere, new books, TV films, probably two-minute slots with people saying "I've always really liked this one", all that. Naturally it's upsetting.

Moore's sculpture has had a range of enemies, and they generally had a point. Early on, there were critics who thought it much too modern. "Revolting formlessness such as offends sensitive people," said a review of one of his first shows. Later, there were critics who thought it not nearly modern enough – a safe, soft, English pastoral version of modernism. Heavens, even Kenneth Clark approved of it, setting Moore against Picasso, praising the Yorkshireman's sturdiness and doggedness over the foreign artiste's promiscuous invention.

Artistic comparisons do Moore's early work no favours. Picasso? Other contemporaries like Brancusi, Gaudier-Brzeska, Arp, Giacometti? The British Museum stuff, Mayan, African, Cycladic, that Moore drew inspiration from? As a general rule, anything Moore reminds you of, is always better. He's best when he imitates most closely. His own distinguishing mark is stupidity. What makes Moores Mooreish is a failure of tone, a blatant gawkiness which somehow isn't registered as a problem.

Take those pert little cone-breasts, pointing up perkily among the massive lumbering limbs of some reclining woman. Any sense of strain between pubescent and earth-mother seems to escape his notice. Or take the pin head with dot-eyes, the Martian-tadpole, that tops so many figures – figures which are meant to be grand or serene, and not at all funny. It's no good saying "modernism, y'know". It just looks ridiculous, all the more so for believing itself noble. Indeed, take the famous holes, where the one thing you mustn't feel about



Mycenae meets Sputnik in *The Helmet* 1939-40 (top). But the rot set in with *Recumbent Figure* 1938

them is that they're holes! With all Moore's characteristic devices, there's something unwitting or unwanted – some aspect you have to overlook for the sake of higher things. You don't get this special pleading with Picasso.

On the other hand, in terms of cultural achievement, Moore's career is impressive. He did needful import work, bringing new sculptural ideas into Britain. He inspired a popular amateur art form, something that only a few artists do: as Picasso gave us collage and Calder the mobile, Moore gave us the piece of undulating polished wood that has afforded Sunday sculptors so many happy hours of curvacious smoothing. And then – which again few artists, however famous, manage – he hit the stride of history.

Moore was the man for the post-war moment. In the years following his triumph at the 1948 Venice Biennale, international exhibitions and commissions abounded. One can put this down to vigorous cultural diplomacy by the British Council, doing promotion of Britain and free-world propaganda. But there was a true match between Moore's work and the needs of a war-wrecked world. His Anglican compromise of abstract, figurative and organic provided the right ideals and consolations: images of non-specific, non-divisive humanism; an art that looked modern but avoided modernist aggro and fragmentation; that offered the "mythic" as basic common ground.

"Timeless" was the mode of the time. You see it in Wieland Wagner's denazified Bayreuth productions, set in an abstract realm fusing primal past and sci-fi future. Moore gets the same feeling. The *Helmet* pieces: Mycenae meets Sputnik. The *Internal* and *External Forms*: creation pot cum splitting atom. *The King and Queens*: neolithic ETs. (Another of Moore's cultural credits: disseminating an image of the "alien" in the public mind).

This mythic stuff is fatally dated now. Moore was blessed and cursed with a talent for the central clichés of the age. But how thrilling, then, for a viewer to able to feel: here are the myths of our time, here are the living icons of our culture (our culture therefore is alive, and unified). Moore's art was given a para-religious, almost a magical status. It was a dream of modern art come true – work that offered more than images, more even than the archetypal shapes of the human mind, but forms that actually radiated power, energy points in the world, like the old stone rings: and was quite popular too.

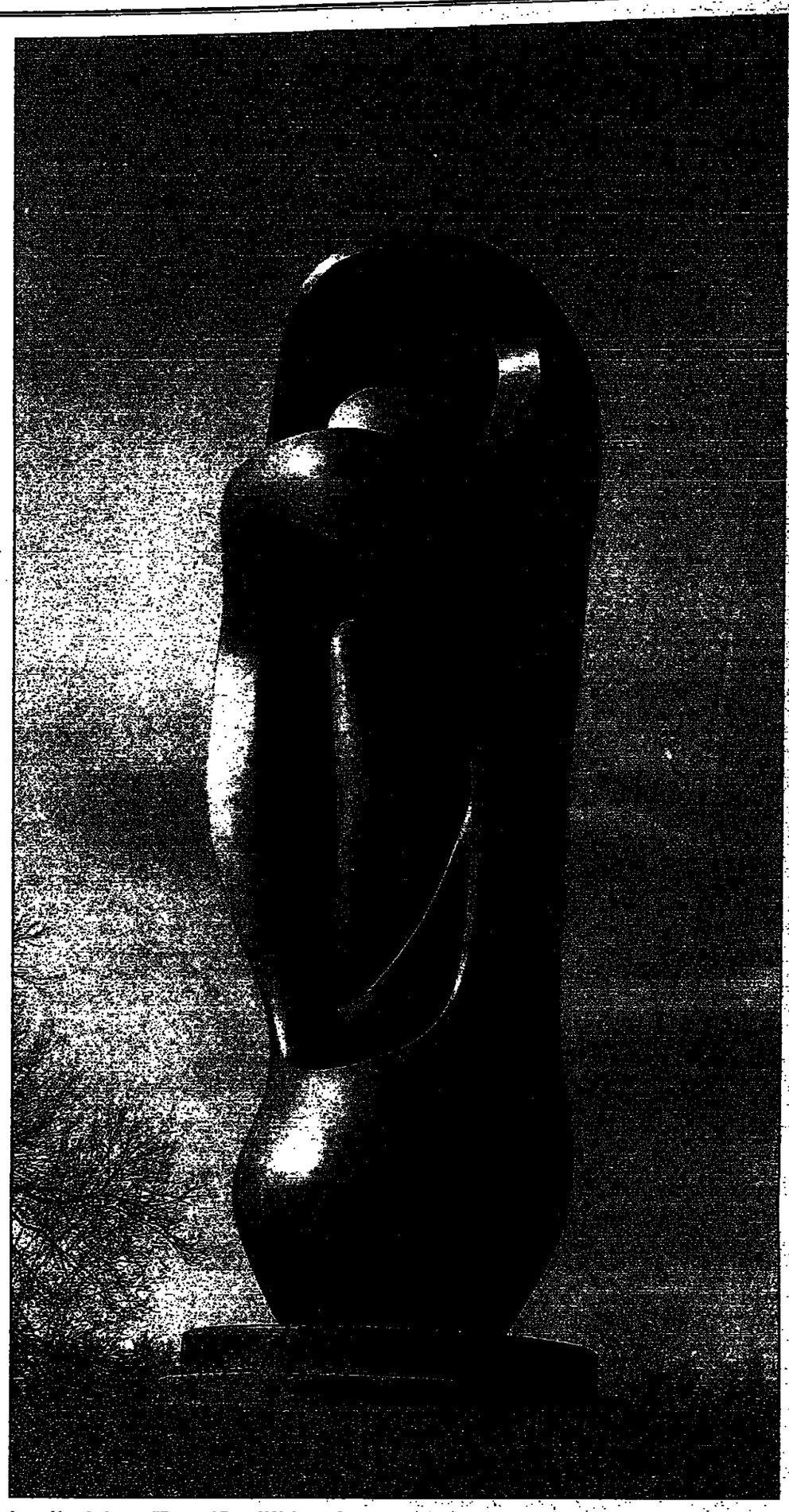
He became an international figure and a national treasure – and an artist almost beyond criticism. When, in the late Fifties, John Berger made a negative judgement on his recent work, the story goes that someone from the British Council rang up Moore to personally apologise for this outrage. It was Berger too who coined a brilliantly destructive insult that formulates all that's wrong with Moore's long late period: "Piltdown sculpture."

The famous archaeological forgery, purporting to be the skull of a missing link, really a collage of ape and human bones, was exposed in 1953. The phrase calls Moore's work pseudo-primal, and (more acutely) a collage of bits which pretends to a natural unity. I think the trouble starts with *Recumbent Figure* (1938). Put the phrase "organic form" out of your mind just for a moment and see the piece for what it is: a dismembered corpse in a body-stocking. And what's grotesque is not the dismemberment, the disparate human parts it's made of, but the way they're stitched up and smoothed over in the fluid sheath of general, non-specific tissue.

Moore's knack was for metamorphosis, seamlessly grafting together diverse elements – limbs, stones, buttocks, bones, branches, crags, occasional hints of manufacture. The metamorphosis always urges continuity and integration, not contrast. Herbert Read said: "Moore believes that behind the appearance of living things there is some kind of spiritual essence, a force or immanent being. "This spiritual essence comes out as the ectoplasm-protoplasm which Moore's bits and pieces dissolve into and extrude out of. His figures are stuck in miasmic cocoons of this uni-matter. They display a horribly thwarted life. What makes it worse: it's supposed to be nice, a wholesome wholeness. True, some of Moore's pieces are tormented. But they're not tormented by their biometamorphosis as such; that's their normal state of being, which they share with non-tormented figures. And of course, if Moore were to give any hint that his organic graftings produce – as they do – anatomical frights worthy of Francis Bacon, then the case would be altered. Here's Moore's stupidity again, another great failure of tone – he's oblivious to how he's performing a monstrous plastic surgery.

These "organisms" look especially awful when placed, where Moore liked them best, in a natural landscape. Hills, trees, rocks, sheep – and there, on an eminence, some ghastly mutant-colossus. (To the sea!) Peter Fuller couldn't have been more wrong, seeking in Moore the seeds of an "ecological aesthetic". Find rather potential monuments to radiation leakage and genetic experiment. (Whee! Splosh!)

Moore now? Seen thus, he could almost be recast as a YBA in advance, among the boys who do gross-out or the girls who do flux and dissolution. And no doubt every subsequent British artist owes him a general debt as one who first made British Art a chapter-heading. Some of the work is all right. Like everyone, I like the *Underground* pictures. But Moore's best legacy is his once reputation artist-priest-king, modern myth-maker, a grand and now wholly incredible figure – that's the image we should hold in our minds for the centenary, as a wonder. We'll never see anything like it again.



***Large Upright Internal/External Form* 1981-2** Photographs taken from *Celebrating Moore*, published by Lund Humphries

Shocking dreams and painted dogs – a buyer's guide

YOU NEVER know how your children are going to show you up – especially if they become artists. Whether their work embraces violence, homosexuality or God, the finger is likely to be pointed at mum and dad. Upbringing, you know.

Among young artists' work for sale this week are 25-year-old **Alexander Sandover**'s 10 photographs, each showing a pair of gilt-framed portraits of an archetypal (and presumably heterosexual) paterfamilias and his wife – with a young gay couple in various poses beneath them.

Sandover, who graduated in fine art from the Byam Shaw School of Art, calls them "the normal couple". He says: "My interest lies in the gay politics of living in a time when a homosexual lifestyle is being increasingly tolerated and heterosexual reaction to the urban gay community seems to be mellowing".

The photographs cost £400 to £750 and are exhibited until 25 April in "Ambiguous" at the Thomas Kettle Gallery, 53a Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-379 3579).

Toby Rye, 29, who has just become a father, says that his acrylic on board "Where Do Dreams Come From?" was inspired by a recent, not a childhood dream.

"But the point of it was that the person with no genitals was my father. It's me who's got the genitals now," he says. The child is father to the man.

"It's a bit personal, and some people are shocked," says Rye, a graduate of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. "But they feel relieved that someone can visualise the sort of dream they have had."

Ironically, Rye's one-man show of 20 paintings is being exhibited by Weil Hung – the gallery that was founded by television presenter Chris Evans – in the restaurant and bar of Hype DF, the clothes shop in Kensington High Street, London W8.

Most of the paintings are

Exploring the relationship between father and child in 'Where Do Dreams Come From?' (far left) by Toby Rye; and 'Sniff', 'Wizard' and 'Bean' (left), collage dogs by Justine Smith

brighter and lighter than this one. All cost £450+VAT and the show runs until 2 May (0171-937 6355).

Nico Westerdale, 22, won a Chief Scout's Challenge Award. He was a good boy, but his parents' separation threw him.

He made "I Must Not Draw On The Wall", a repetitive engraving on metal, last September, around the time he used to sit on the stairs, listening to them discussing who would get what.

"I'm sure there was a link," he says: "I was feeling very depressed. At that time, I also made a video of paint drying."

Westerdale is best known for his closely-packed line drawings that build into distortions. The engraving costs £200 and is exhibited in his show at the Original Levi's Store Oxford Gallery, 29 Queen Street, Oxford – another fashionable shop that, like Hype DF and Habitat, which initiated the trend, knows the value of linking its name with bright young artists.

The show is on until 28 April (0171-439 2559).

Giles Humphreys, 32, quit Sunday school at the age of seven. Now, he says, he is spoken to by God and drops all to sculpt to God's command.

His exhibition of 16 artworks, "Christ", includes a copper-wire word-cube of the Lord's prayer, "Our Father". His dad did have something to do with it – he had a printing and graphic-design business and young Humphreys became passionately fond of typography.

Humphreys, who studied design, manufacture and management at Cambridge, says that God speaks to him inaudibly. The first time it happened was when he was in prayer during a Bible Week.

"It was awesome, as I'm sure you can imagine," he says. "Now, I often sculpt by resting in God's presence, then going to clay, wax or wire to replicate what He has shown me. It often takes a number of iterations to get it right."

Prices of artworks in "Christ" cost from £50 to £1,000 and are exhibited at the Ark-T Gallery, Crowell Road, Cowley, Oxford until 25 April (01865 773499).

Justine Smith, a 26-year-old multi-media artist, has been making friends with dogs ever since she was forced to walk to her studio in Clapham, south London, after a road accident.

She photographs them, with their owners' consent, then sculpts them in chicken wire and papier-mâché and covers them with her favourite gags from the *Beano* comic.

Besides Bean – her first comic dog, modelled from a German Weimaraner in a dog book – there's Wizard and Daisy (their real names), Spike, the mongrel and Sniff, a breed she invented.

"I love the colours in the *Beano*," she says. "It makes the dogs look light-hearted and cartoony". She had never heard of those folk-art dogs woven from strips of cigarette packet. Of course not. That sort of thing went out with our grandparents.

■ Neil Hamon's "Blinkers" is one of six artworks showcased on the website Vote for Art.

The shortlisted works are by BA fine-art students at the Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design on the theme "Open to Interpretation".

The competition is sponsored by The Research Business International, in conjunction with the college.

Just access the website – www.voteforart.com – and cast your vote by 24 April.

The winner – who will receive £1,500 and possibly another £1,500, to be awarded by a judging panel – will be announced on the site on 1 May.

John Windsor

هكذا من الأصل

A risk worth taking?

An increasing number of people want to take part in drugs trials in the hope of finding a cure. **Roger Dobson** reports

JAYNE Harrison was desperate to become part of a clinical trial. The 33-year-old dentist had been diagnosed as having breast cancer and was only too aware of the doubts about the effectiveness of existing drugs, particularly among women of her age.

"Being diagnosed at 33 as having cancer was pretty shitty, but I knew a lot of trials with new drug treatments were going on and, more than anything, I wanted to get involved, not just for myself, but in the hope that it could help others, too," she says.

Jayne is one of a rapidly growing number of patients who choose to take part in clinical trials – the main way in which drugs and some other treatments are tested before becoming generally available. But although new drugs offer the patient the possibility of a more effective treatment, they can also turn out to be worse or no better than existing treatments and may also have side effects. And for the doctors involved, trials can be a minefield of ethical problems and moral dilemmas.

Six days ago, doctors in the US blew the whistle on a study of the anti-breast cancer drug tamoxifen on the grounds that those women in the trial who had been taking it to prevent cancer were doing so well, it would be unacceptable to continue and deny the benefits to the women who had been taking a placebo. But critics of that decision say it means doctors and patients will not now get the long-term data they need from that study to establish the safety of a drug that would be taken by healthy women for many years.

The ending of the tamoxifen trial illustrates some of the dilemmas involved in the expanding area of clinical trials. It is estimated that there have now been around 400,000 trials since regulations on the safety of drugs were tightened in the aftermath of the thalidomide disaster. A single teaching hospital may now have up to 300 trials running at any one time and medical sites on the Internet are currently seeking volunteers for more than 5,500 trials, tackling a diverse range of diseases, from Alzheimer's and acne to vascular problems and vitamin deficiency.

Trials like these are the main examination that a new or improved drug has to undergo before it can be licensed for a specific condition. Before being trialled on patients, it will already have undergone tests on animals and small groups of healthy patients to identify any obvious side effects. In clinical trials, it is tested against a placebo or the best existing therapy and who gets what is usually determined by a random selection process.

But just who gets to participate in clinical trials remains something of a grey area, although the US National Cancer Institute recommends that they should be considered when there is no standard therapy available that works. Many patients, particularly those with advanced and life-threatening diseases, want to go on a clinical trial in the hope that they will be among those who get the new drug. Others do it for altruistic reasons, aware that while it may be too late for them it may help future sufferers. A few take part because they believe they will get better medical attention and observation, while others just want to get involved, to have a new hope.

Jayne enrolled because she felt she needed to do something after getting her diagnosis. "I am a dentist but I was also doing a PhD in clinical trials, so I was very genned up on the pros and cons," she says. "I knew there was uncertainty about the treatment of breast cancer, particularly among pre-menstrual women, and I had decided that if it was malignant I wanted to be in a trial.

"At the time, I would have gone on any trial which did not affect my fertility, because I have no children and I didn't want my ovaries to get zapped or anything like that. In the end, I was put on a trial involving tamoxifen as a treatment for breast cancer in the under-50s. It was a randomised trial which meant that the luck of the draw gave some people tamoxifen, others got nothing, and two other groups were given a combination of drugs or an injection. I got tamoxifen.

"I knew you had to accept what came along, whatever it was, but it was more important for me to be involved in a trial, any trial, than anything else. I felt that if some good came out of it, it was worth doing."

Jayne believes that everyone should be aware of trials before they need them. "I don't think that many know about clinical trials before they are ill, and I think people should be educated so they don't have to understand all the pros and cons at a time when they are also trying to come to terms with what is wrong with them."

Hazel Thornton, founder and chairman of the Consumer Advisory Group for Clinical Trials, says that giving people the right information is vitally important: "People need to be given enough information and be presented with the case as it really is. It is vital that people make the right, informed decision."

One of the dilemmas of the trials is that individuals who enrol often want a personal and immediate benefit while the trial itself will have wider goals. Professor Richard Lilford, adviser to the NHS on clinical trials, says: "Desperate patients will want something to be done even if it is not yet proved, but society has to follow a policy which enables the correct evidence to be selected in the long term.

> One of the dilemmas of the trials is that individuals often want a personal and immediate benefit while the trial will have wider goals

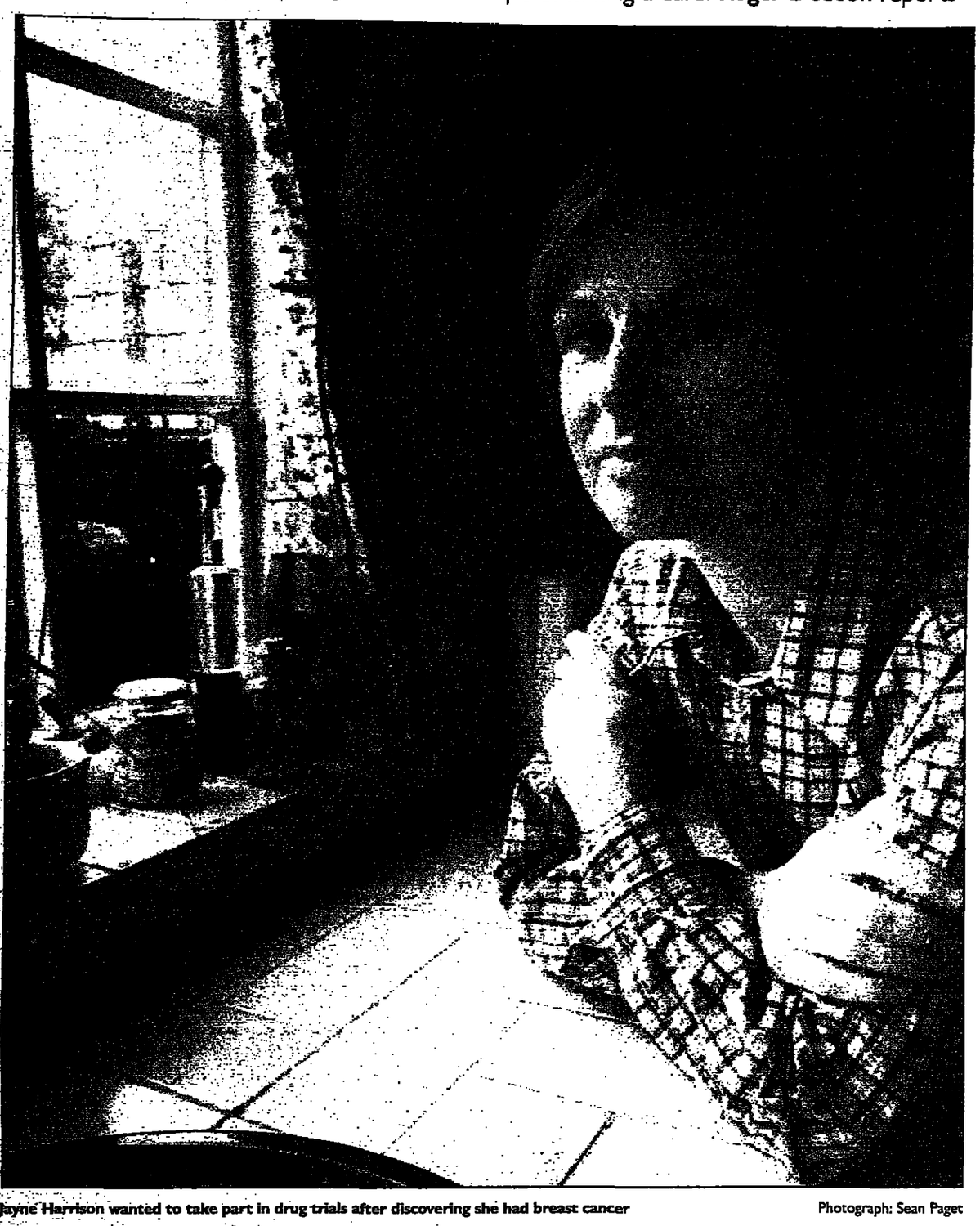
"The way to reconcile the imperative to help patients and the imperative to provide society with knowledge is to make a distinction between the two kind of decision makers, the individual doctor who must do the best for the patient, and the state who must do the best for patients corporately."

A second dilemma for doctors is an ethical test known as equipoise: "A trial is ethical if there is genuine uncertainty as to what the best treatment is. If I embarked on a study when I had a good idea which was the best drug, that would not be equipoise. I could not expect a patient to accept randomisation if I had a good idea which was best," says Professor Kent Woods, professor of therapeutics at Leicester University.

Clinical triallists are also keen to point out that there is always a referee involved checking on progress, even when both doctor and patients do not know which patient has the drug under test – a so-called double blind trial. "Whenever a trial is going on, there will always be a group in the background who are not blind to the data and can see if one group is doing better or worse than another and can make a decision to stop the trial," says Professor Woods.

But he adds: "The decision to blow the whistle is a terribly difficult one. You are protecting the interests of the patients who agreed to take part, and at the same time there is the wider consideration about all the patients whose treatment in the future is going to be influenced by the result of that trial."

With the tamoxifen trial, the debate centres on whether it was the correct moment to stop that trial. Only time will tell if it was the right decision.



Jayne Harrison wanted to take part in drug trials after discovering she had breast cancer — Photograph: Sean Paget

Time to put euthanasia to the vote

DR PHIL HAMMOND

THE thing about euthanasia debates is that the audience tends to be – how shall I put this? – mature.

Most of the bums on the 300 or so seats at the 6 April International Science Festival debate – "This House believes that voluntary euthanasia should be legalised" – had the mark of 60 years or more about them. But there was still a fair sprinkling of young butts about Edinburgh's Playfair Library.

Proposing with me was Jean Davies, currently president of the European division of the World Federation of Right-To-Die Societies and a campaigner for the individual right to opt for voluntary euthanasia (or not) since before I was at medical school.

She is not, as she was at pains to point out, pro-euthanasia but pro-choice. "I would defend your right to choose no as vehemently as I would defend mine to choose yes," she says.

Jean was the only woman and non-doctor in the debate, and a fine antidote to male medical stodge. She wasn't – as anti-euthanasia groups had lead me to believe – the Devil incarnate, but witty, wise and on the side of the angels. At least she would be if she wasn't an atheist.

Her beliefs are well encapsulated in her book, *Choice in Dying* (Ward Lock, 1997 ISBN 0-706-37510-6) which, she assured me, "has never been reviewed anywhere". Well, it's the best book I have ever read on the subject and I heartily recommend it.

Against was Michael Wilks, chairman of the British Medical Association's Ethics Committee, and Ian McColl, Professor of Surgery at UMDS (that's Guy's and Thomas's hospitals merged with a bit of King's thrown in. Or vice versa).

Lord McColl gave a passionate defence of the status quo. Most of the people he had served with at sea wanted to die at some time and changed their minds on dry land. And 96 per cent of the patients in the hospice he is associated with have complete pain relief, and he has only ever known one person request to die (but he still insisted on taking tablets to keep him alive).

Patients sent home from the hospice with diamorphine to control their pain did just that and never committed suicide, even though they easily could have. And although voluntary euthanasia might on paper be voluntary for both doctor and patient, Lord McColl – not a Catholic – remembered when the Abortion Act was passed in 1967. "The pressure from patients was so great that woe betide any doctor who didn't offer abortion on demand. To this day, you very rarely meet a Catholic consultant gynaecologist."

McColl was also full of praise for today's medical students. "Better trained, better communicators, more compassionate, all round nicer people." He felt that this was the best insurance that patients in the future would receive excellent palliative medicine.

There might still be a call for voluntary euthanasia from a few, but this autonomous right was less important than the need to protect the vulnerable who might be coerced or feel duty bound to ask for it. He ended with a quote from a Dutch doctor about the difficulties of actively terminating a patient's life: "The first time was very difficult, the second less so and the third was a piece of cake."

> Most of us know someone who's had a bad death or a futile prolonged life

This threw Jean Davies into an apoplectic rage, and she apologised to all the Dutch doctors she knows who have been practising compassion-motivated voluntary euthanasia in a controlled, open and regulated way and would never refer to it in those terms.

Jean sees the issue as a matter of liberty. If you have a progressive, insufferable, incurable illness, you have a right to choose the time and means of your death. It was about dignity, rather than pain, and many independent people used to being in control of their lives would rather be helped to die in such circumstances than regress to a futile, undignified state of dependence. "I for one, do not want to be remembered like that," she said. Huge round of applause.

My views on the subject are very similar (see last week), although the pressure is off because I have the access and expertise to retire gracefully if life becomes intolerable. Being a doctor is currently the best guarantee of a dignified death (that is, if you survive the alcohol and depression).

Most of us know someone who's had a bad death or a futile prolonged life, even with the best palliative care. I think you deserve the choice not to and the audience agreed with 80 per cent in favour and none of the over-60s against. Let's have a referendum.

'We now make love twice a week or more'

Thousands of impotent men are suffering in silence. **Ted Dickens** decided to speak out about why it is worth getting help

IMPOTENCE – now there's a subject. Rarely discussed easily with anyone, but a sure attention-grabber at a comedy show.

My own awareness of this problem crept up on me slowly. Making love was not always a guaranteed event, but as I had some time ago passed my 60th birthday milestone, I became philosophical about it.

In my late sixties, I had an operation on my prostate gland which had become enlarged. Despite whispers that it would put a stop to lovemaking, it did not.

But the occasional difficulty in having an erection did still occur. So when a TV film was shown discussing erection problems in detail, I recorded the transmission against a possible future personal need for reference.

Four years on and my impotency was an established condition. Whenever we were feeling intimate, I would have an incipient erection, but even this subsided soon after entry, forcing me to abandon the act.

My wife, Erna, was understanding but nevertheless disappointed although she made light of the matter. I, on the other hand, felt a true failure, made worse by the knowledge that it was not going to improve. Our sex life had come to an end, through what I felt was purely my failure.

We have always had a very loving relationship, and were always cuddling, and kissing, but now I felt guilty that I could not fulfil what was really "foreplay".

I feared that we would grow away from each other, a depressing thought that intruded more and more into my life. I felt that old age had taken me down a peg and I lost some confidence.

At this stage, Erna and I talked about the situation and decided that we should make arrangements for a consultation with a specialist to discuss implementation of one of the treatments we remembered from the television documentary.

My local doctor, a woman, with whom I had discussed my problem, was most helpful and assisted with an appointment to see a specialist.

During our consultation I explained that my wife and I had discussed the treatments highlighted in the documentary, and agreed that a penile prosthesis would seem to offer the best solution in my case. We also had a friend who had an implant, so had ample knowledge.

He agreed, and a date was made for me to undergo surgery. The eventual operation went very smoothly and with no discomfort whatsoever, in spite of my worries about this. Twenty-four hours after arriving at the hospital I was back on the train for home, and five weeks of convalescence.

The semi-rigid rod type of implant was my own preference, and Erna and I are very happy with that choice. It has ensured that whenever we make love, penetration is easy and lasting, guaranteeing that my wife always will have one or more orgasms.

An added bonus has been an apparent return of some of the erection mechanism. If this is true, it must be due to the confidence we now have of successful sex every time. We now make love a minimum of once a week but usually twice or more.

Erna and I are now, after two years with the implant, relaxed, and in a general way very happy, although why, is not widely known. Our friends comment on what a happy loving couple we are. Truly our relationship is perfect.

For both of us our new sex life has made a big difference, and we are writing this account in the hope that it may encourage others, to follow our example.

As an "over-70s" couple, when most of our contemporaries seem to have resigned themselves to "being past it", we are on a permanent honeymoon.

If you are considering this sort of treatment, then, as my doctor said: "Go for It!"

THE INDEPENDENT

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Teachers must be led, not driven

TEACHERS behaved badly on cue yesterday. The National Union of Teachers' annual conference usually witnesses behaviour which if spotted in school would call for reproof and perhaps even exclusion: and we were not let down during David Blunkett's visit. A fraction of this union's membership still belongs to far-left organisations (though quite what Trotskyist means these days is hard to grasp). It is also sadly true that the militants and hecklers are concentrated in precisely those schools in deprived areas which most need imagination, dedication, skill, perseverance, experiment … and money. If only the NUT could occasionally raise its collective head and grasp just how strong a negotiating case there now is for educational investment.

The bad boys and girls at the back of the class yesterday are a problem. They represent those teachers – their numbers may run into the thousands – who are never going to sign up to the schools crusade the Government hopes to conduct. Their attitudes are sour, their mentality negative, their politics antediluvian. Some are archetypal Sixties recruits to the schools who in their teaching methods as in their politics belong in William Tyndale – meaning they fail to see that parents do wish their children to be formally educated, to reach identifiable levels of attainment and to be subject to discipline while going about it. Railing about injustice in society at large can never absolve teachers in state schools from their principal obligation of equipping their children with skills and attitudes to cope with, even succeed in, the world as it is – which means the job markets of Hackney, inner Manchester, Handsworth, Gateshead and Hull.

Yet most teachers, most members of the NUT, are biddable. That surely is the main reason David Blunkett is in Blackpool. He sees that the Government's plans can succeed only if teachers respond. It is a hearts and minds job. Too often his colleagues – notoriously Stephen Byers, sometimes the Prime Minister himself – give the impression they would love, like the Ofsted chief Chris Woodhead, to subject the profession to carpet bombing. But good teaching is not something a thug can produce: teachers cannot be brutalised into imaginative performance in the classroom. There have to be some sticks, yes, but the Government ought to have a ready supply of carrots, too. Education action zones are a case in point. If the Government is sincere about treating its plan as an experiment (in which case it would be good to hear more about how data is going to be collected and appraised) these could be an exciting alternative to local education authorities. Peter Smith of the Association of Lecturers and Teachers is doing the right thing – getting in there at the birth. The NUT's job is to secure for its members the best deal and that must mean incentives to performance, bonuses for improvement – in other words, money. The Government too often, like its predecessor, seems to believe change can be had on the cheap. It cannot. Better behaviour has to be bought. The Government, like its predecessor, is surely right to object to across-the-broad increases, but it must go further in building up the image and reality of high-grade teachers who are highly paid.

With its welcome concession over paperwork, the Government seems belatedly to be realising just how much it is asking of teachers – all those measures of performance of a kind few other professions are subjected to. It has to recognise a paradox, too. The Government, rightly, wants teachers to become more professional, meaning more dedicated, self-motivating, reliable. Whatever the NUT says, a General Teaching Council is the right way forward. But that means teachers becoming more autonomous. Only yesterday we had the health minister Alan Milward requiring health trusts to impose tighter quality controls on medical professionals because their autonomy leads to the elevation of self- or group-interest above that of the patient. David Blunkett says his requirement of a "literacy hour" is non-negotiable – local circumstance or professional judgement be hanged. Teachers are entitled to respond that if they are treated like shopfloor employees subject to central diktat, they will behave like them, too.

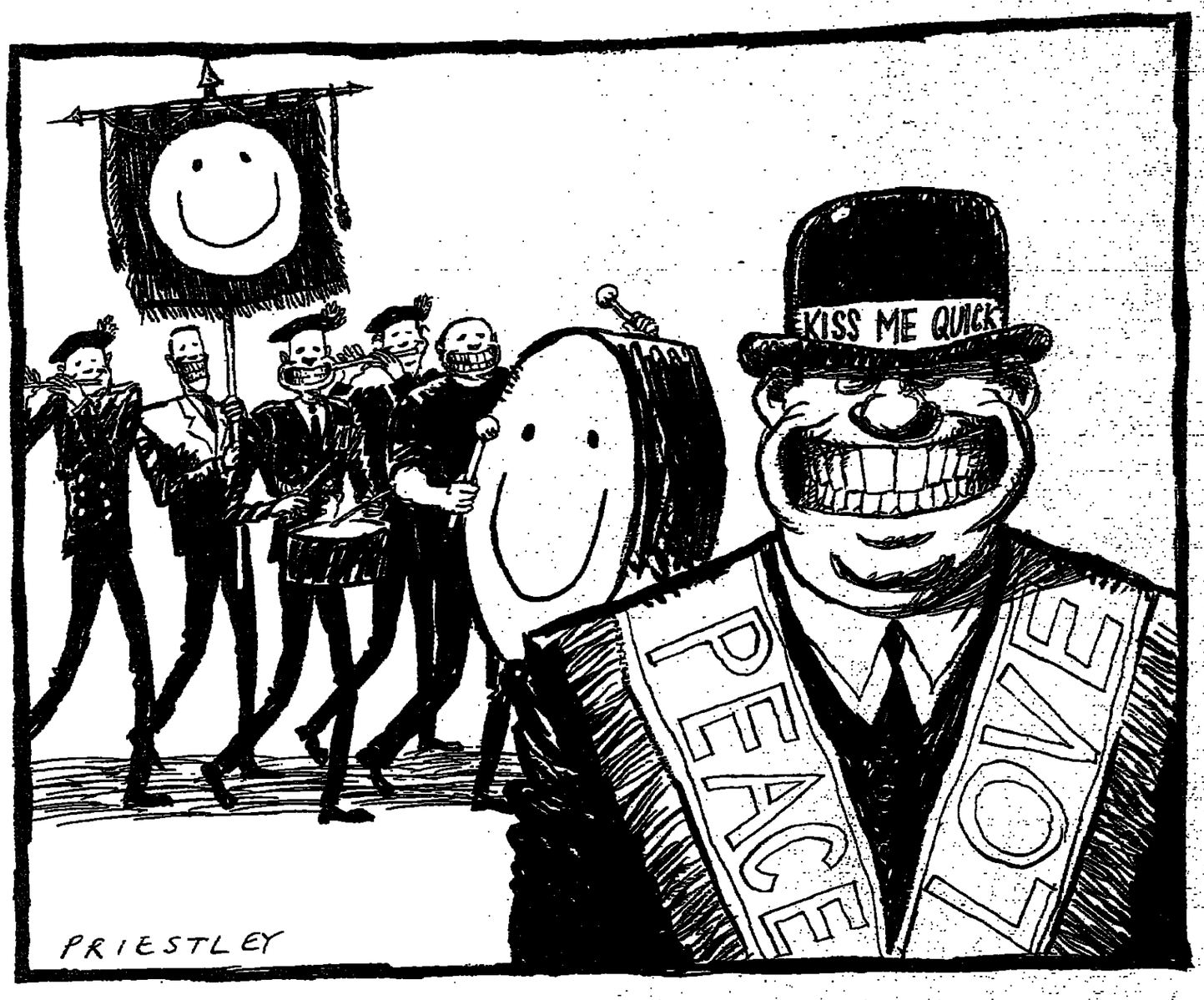
Unless they can be persuaded. The reason David Blunkett has to endure the Eastertime brickbats, and will again next year and the year after, is that there can be no revolution in attitudes towards attainment or school organisation unless the ordinary teacher is convinced, and that is a task requiring the political arts. The Government is trying to change recruitment and perhaps, one day, school teaching will attract a new class of people whose commitment to the highest standards can be relied upon (which incidentally will require a big increase in the salary bill). But for the meantime it is members of the NUT, together with the NAS-UWT and the other unions, who need to be cajoled, seduced and above all led in ways which the Doug McAvoys of this world can never dream of.

Harbingers of doom

TALK ABOUT apocalypse now. It's has been a busy Easter for the four horsemen. First there was flood (in Stratford-upon-Avon) and now … termites have been reported invading southern England. In these *fin-de-siecle* circumstances, it is perhaps surprising there is not more sign of millenarian panic. The last time round in 999 holy men and cultists made a good living predicting the end of civilisation as they then knew it.

Rationalists are, fortunately, nowadays on hand to spoil the party. What is striking about the floods is how local they were. Inundation in Leamington and Banbury says a lot more about the peculiarities of drainage off the Midlands heights than divine intent – what has God got against the Vale of Evesham anyway?

As for the termites: it's amazing how slow, despite the growth of international travel and trade, despite acknowledged evidence of warming, the sub-tropicalisation of Torquay and adjacent spots has been. That termites have arrived on these shores is less surprising than that, having been here for months, they have found English domestic architecture so little to their taste.



LETTERS

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Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

'Peace' in Ireland

FOR understandable reasons the historic agreement approved, subject to referendums, in Belfast on 10 April is being referred to in media reports as a "peace deal", and of course it is devoutly to be hoped that over time it will indeed lead to the abandonment of violence as a means of achieving political aims in Northern Ireland. But we should be clear that in the short term it will, alas, not produce peace: we may be sure that for the near future one or more nasty sets of initials will continue to use bomb and bullet.

When terrorist incidents take place it is extremely difficult for democratically elected politicians to resist the pressures they then come under to react in such a way as to nullify commitments made to pursue a particular political course (cf earlier episodes in Northern Irish history and Israeli backsliding on the Oslo accords). So, to strengthen their own hand against the inevitable pressures they are going to come under, let the politicians who approved the agreement of 10 April now show further courage by making statements, in unequivocal words that could be quoted against them, showing recognition that terrorist acts are going to take place and affirming that nevertheless nothing will deflect them from adhering to the Belfast agreement.
Sir HAROLD WALKER
Woking,
Surrey

DAVID TRIMBLE is right to say that the Good Friday agreement will strengthen the Union as well as providing a framework for peace in the Province. Conversely, any rejection in the referendum will lead to further disillusion with Northern Ireland in Great Britain. A mood of "a plague on all their houses" will become manifest, not least due to the huge human and financial cost to the mainland in the maintenance of the Union. Like all partnerships, the Union needs consent from both sides of the Irish Sea.
JOHN O'BRIEN
Morpeth, Northumberland

ONCE AGAIN the role of women in major historical events is airbrushed out. For nearly a year, the painstaking efforts of Mo Mowlam have been reported fairly and honestly. Yet, when the agreement finally comes, *The Independent* is filled with pictures of grey-suited men shaking hands.

And who gets the credit? Blair, Clinton, anyone so long as they're male. If the talks had failed we'd have heard a lot more about the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and a lot less about her male superiors.
STEPHEN WARING
Winchester

WHAT do we call "These Islands"? "The British Isles" is politically insensitive. "These Islands" is geographically ridiculous. Is this the time for a change?
TRIONA CAREY
Macroom,
Co Cork

Mothering mocked

YOUR article "Power lunches with my two-year-old" (City +, 8 April) reminded me of the contract babies I saw in Philadelphia in 1995.

Six-week-old infants were brought into a superbly equipped creche in the basement of an office block. They were also brought in to the creche at weekends and when they were sick, so that their working mothers could have time off. The nurse became their mother, and the creche home. These children suffered severe emotional distress at the age of three when they had to leave.

When I questioned why such women wanted children at all, I was told that many of them didn't want a baby, it was the men who wanted to be fathers and promised to finance the excellent childcare from six weeks if the women would agree to give birth. This makes a mockery of mothering. Power lunches make a mockery of fathering.

From August this year, Norway plans to pay mothers to stay at home with their 0-2 year olds on condition that they do not use a public daycare centre. It is time the UK followed this example and set a true value, financial and social, on the time a mother spends caring for her young children at home.
SUE CLASEN
Chairman, WATCh?
Pershore,
Worcestershire

Internet filters

THE teachers who are calling for tough regulation of web companies and for the use of filtering software in schools ("Paedophiles targeting pupils via the Internet", 10 April) to help protect pupils from accessing dubious material on the Internet seem to have forgotten one important aspect of their role. They are in the business of preparing pupils for the harsh realities of the world and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to prosper in that world.

This means acknowledging that life, with all of its opportunities and challenges, also occasionally has a dark side to it. Having acknowledged this, they should then set about ensuring that pupils are streetwise enough to be able to deal with that dark side rather than sheltering them from it.

Teenagers are naturally inquisitive and if they know that material is being filtered from them, they will find a way to access it. It is better that they should be taught to develop their own judgement about whatever material they may see on the Internet, and to be able to assess for themselves its validity, rather than passively relying on a piece of filtering software to do it for them.
DAVID AMIS
Stanford le Hope,
Essex

South Bank sound

FOLLOWING the demise of Lord Rogers's canopy for the South Bank, the intention is to substitute that of the runners-up in the competition, Allies and Morrison, "to make the arts complex a worthy cultural landmark once more" ("On the crest of a new wave", 9 April).

London has more good orchestras than any other city in the world. The South Bank is its primary concert hall. However, London does not possess an acoustically decent concert hall to compare with Birmingham, revamped Chicago, Boston or Amsterdam. The Festival Hall is an acoustic disgrace.

Instead of throwing good money after bad, the only sensible solution is to start from the inside and work outwards. By all means use the South Bank's wonderful location, but instead of tinkering with the external appearance let us get our priorities right and start by building a concert hall worthy of the capital, where music can be heard with pleasure rather than endured. A great deal is now known about acoustics, so this is no longer a hit-and-miss affair.

Employ Russell Johnson, who designed the spectacularly successful and acoustically adaptable Symphony Hall in Birmingham, to get the inside right first and if the exterior can be made to look half as good as Johnson's Birmingham interior, most of us will be more than happy.
DOUGLAS COOKSEY
London NW3

Straw the subversive

I WAS amused by David Aaronovitch's article (Comment, 9 April) about secrets hidden in government files – particularly, Jack Straw's own secrets.

Some 23 years ago I was vetted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a job in one of our last remaining colonies. My Irish antecedents caused a little concern, but of more concern was my previous presidency of a college student union. At my final meeting with my vetting officer, he asked me if I knew of any subversives – for form's sake he included fascists in his list. Of course, half my friends veered between Trots (on the right) and Maoists (left to centrist) but I didn't want to shop them so I cast about for a safe left-wing demon. "Well, I've met Jack Straw", I said. "But he seemed all right."

"They always do," was the response, and I was warned about Mr Straw in no uncertain terms.
SEAN MARRIOTT
Aldborough, Norfolk

Double holiday

WHAT a relief to have two bank holidays over Easter – our batteries need recharging after three months of hard slog since Christmas (leading article, 13 April). Why not add on the Tuesday after each bank holiday, as many offices do? As those in work experience longer hours under increasing pressures, don't deprive us of the opportunity to relax officially.
DAVID SHEARN
Bath

Battery cooking

YOUR picture of children in a cage demonstrating against battery farming (9 April) prompts a question. While those of us who prefer not to support battery farming form a market worth catering for in terms of raw chicken and eggs, why among the array of chicken-based precooked meals in my local supermarket have I never seen one bearing the words "free range"?
BILL LINTON
London N13

Mashed language served on its own pillow of anomalous adverbs

MILES KINGTON

I AM very glad to welcome once more a visit from Dr Wordsmith, our expert on the vagaries of the English language, who will do his best to answer all your queries. Take it away, doc!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I was in a restaurant recently where there was an item on the menu described as being "served on a pillow of lasagne". What is a "pillow" of lasagne? Is it any better or worse than being served on a "bed" of lasagne? I have often come across things being served on a bed but never on a pillow before. What's going on?

Dr Wordsmith writes: What is going on is that British cooks have finally run out of creative invention when it comes to food, so they have turned to the language of the menu instead. Chefs have tried every combination of lemon grass with everything, cumin with everything, sun-dried tomatoes with everything, so now they are trying different word combinations. It has been well established by wine writers that you can talk about wine in terms of other activities – sport, for instance, so that you can refer to a "frisky little wine" or a wine with long legs or stamina – and now the cooks have discovered this cheap source of imagery. In your case, it is the imagery of bed-making. Wait for things to be served in "their own duvet of lasagne" or "under its eiderdown of bechamel sauce".

The other day I heard a top politician saying, of someone else, "He is the sort of man who, if I was selecting the Cabinet, I would not even have him as a messenger." Isn't that atrocious grammar?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Yes, but the English language is almost impossible sometimes to guide towards a successful sentence ending. I will give you an example. Yesterday I was helping my wife to sort out the washing, and I was going through a basket of clothes, some of which had to be ironed. I said: "There are some items in this laundry basket which I'm not sure if they should be ironed or not…" I then stopped, conscious that I had uttered a dreadfully ungrammatical sentence, but when I went through the sentence again in my mind, I realised that once you get as far as "There are some items in this laundry basket which…", there is NO satisfactory way of completing the sentence. The English language is not perfect. In fact, it's a bit of a mess sometimes.

Well, talking of that, I have always been puzzled by being taught that adverbs are adjectives with -ly stuck on the end.

Dr Wordsmith writes: What's wrong with that?

Well, "comely" and "miserly" are not adverbs.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Oh, I see. Yes, when you get an adjective ending in -ly, there is a confusion, and you feel the temptation to add -ly to the adjective to make it an adverb. For instance, if a "kindly" person does a thing in a "kindly" fashion, does she do it "kindlily"?

Well, does she?

Dr Wordsmith writes: No, of course she bloody doesn't.

In that case, what about gingerly? If I approach something "gingerly", does that mean that I approach it in a "ginger" fashion? Is "gingerly" the adverb from "ginger"?

Dr Wordsmith writes: No, of course it bloody isn't. "Gingerly" is the adverb from the adjective "gingerly". There must have been a time when people were tempted to say, "He approached it gingerlily", but soon gave it up because it sounded stupid.

Is there in fact such a thing as a "ginger lily"?

Dr Wordsmith writes: I haven't the faintest idea. For God's sake, hasn't anyone got any intelligent questions?

Why do people always pronounce "lingerie" as if it were spelt "longerie"? If you are trying to pronounce it the French way, it should approximate to "langerie", surely?

Dr Wordsmith writes: You're not asking an intelligent question, are you? You're just showing off your knowledge of French, aren't you?

Yes. Sorry.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Next!

I heard Ned Sherrin use the expression "de rigueur" on the radio the other day, when he was saying that on some radio programmes "a posh accent is de rigueur". It's always a pleasure to hear Mr Sherrin say anything, but I did wonder why we use French expressions when there is a perfectly good English one.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Oh? And what is this perfectly good English expression which Mr Sherrin might have used?

Well, he might have said that a posh accent was a "sine qua non".

Dr Wordsmith writes: And since when has that been an English expression?

Yes, I see what you mean…

Dr Wordsmith writes: God save me from morons and imbeciles! I'm going down the pub!

Dr Wordsmith will be back again soon when he is in a better temper.

هكذا من الأصل

Now for the referendum, when the people's voice will be heard

DONALD MACINTYRE

SEEKING CONSENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

THE DEMOCRATIC architecture of Belfast, and, in particular, the monumental, in your face, Stormont parliament building looking magisterially down on Carson's statue, is among the most imposing in the world. But it has never lived up to its physical pretensions. Until direct rule, it was for Catholics a hated sectarian symbol of post-partition Unionist ascendancy. And since direct rule – with the exception of a few tantalising months after the abortive Sunningdale agreement – it has been an empty shell, mocking the lack of living democratic politics in Northern Ireland. The lights were on, but no one was at home.

All that could now be transformed. One of the many huge benefits of the Good Friday settlement is that, as the Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble eloquently put it yesterday, "a healthy, vibrant, democracy [stands] to replace the stagnation, frustration and powerlessness of the last three decades". The cross-community assembly agreed on Friday has the ability to fill a vacuum which, for more than quarter of a century, has helped to leave politics clear for the bomb and the Armalite.

But to achieve democracy, you first have to get there, and by democratic means. Between now and 22 May, one of the most delicate and important persuasive exercises ever undertaken in the British Isles will be conducted to ensure a yes vote in the referendum on both sides of the border. When Tony Blair said from his brief holiday in Spain that nothing could be taken for granted he meant it. It's a sentiment felt if anything even more deeply by Trimble and those of his UUP colleagues who have bravely staked their political lives on the settlement. They have already begun. Even Whitehall's most famously energetic spin doctors were yesterday impressed at how quickly both David Trimble and his deputy John Taylor moved this weekend and started to argue the case for why Ulster should, at last, say yes.

An as yet unresolved question is how the broadcasters will handle the referendum campaign. There have been suggestions in Belfast that the ITC in its advice to Ulster Television and the BBC may take the view that equal play has to be given to each side in the referendum debate. But is coverage of every speech by Tony Blair or David Trimble or John Hume really going to be be balanced by equal time allotted to Ian Paisley or a renegade republican defector?

Given that the SDLP and the UUP command together a majority of votes cast in general elections – securing 13 MPs between them, compared with only four from Paisley's anti-settlement DUP and Bob McCartney's UK Unionist Party – they are arguably entitled to a lion's share of the airtime. Particularly if Sinn Fein – which won enough votes to secure two MPs – joins them on yes platforms. Of course, the no campaign should not be suppressed; but should that really mean equal air time? Surely not.

The Prime Minister has already sought the support of both John Major and Paddy Ashdown in the task of winning hearts and minds of Northern Ireland's people. Government officials in Northern Ireland are likely to be wary of too frequent interventions by outside mainland politicians. The humiliating demise of the Conservative candidate in the Upper Bann by-election, which brought David Trimble to Westminster in 1990, is cited as one example of how they can go wrong. Another, seared in the memories of NIO officialdom, is Harold Wilson's seriously misjudged prime ministerial broadcast during the Ulster Workers' Strike which extinguished the hopes invested in Sunningdale.

I don't think Tony Blair will – or should – be too put off by this folklore. He has almost unlimited faith in the persuasive powers of logical argument. He knows the nuances of Northern Ireland politics infinitely better than Wilson ever did. It is hard to imagine a Prime Minister at the peak of his prestige, standing aside from that process.

Finally, the visit to Belfast of President Clinton, whose own role in the talks – including making it bluntly clear to Gerry Adams that Sinn Fein had achieved as much as it could on the release of prisoners – was highly important, is likely to happen on 19 May, after the G8 meeting in Birmingham. This would be only three days before the planned date of a referendum. The big guns, in other words, are lining up.

But none of this will eclipse the paramount importance of local politicians themselves. In this most politically obsessive corner of the world, many people will indeed sit down to read the 69-page agreement sent to every home in Northern Ireland. Touring the Lower Falls before the agreement last week, you could not fail to be struck by how many people said, "It depends on what it says," or "I'll have to read it first." But they will also take a lead from the party leaders. Ian Paisley on Thursday night, fighting to be heard above the heckling from those ex-paramilitaries who once regarded him as the only politician worth listening to, looked well past his sell by date. But his rhetorical power, and his ability to exploit the clear divisions within the UUP shouldn't be written off.

> To achieve democracy, you first have to get there, and by democratic means

And those very divisions may yet prove a key variable. The crucial meeting that Trimble has to win over is the UUP council next weekend. And while the four ageing UUP MPs who have already condemned the deal may not carry as much clout as they think, the depressing and naked opportunism of the young Jeffrey Donaldson's opposition is a little more sinister. But the past few weeks have shown what a great mistake it is to underestimate Trimble. Ministers have also been struck by how eloquently the settlement has since been defended by two of the UUP MPs who created most difficult in the talks themselves. John Taylor and Ken Maginnis. Some persuasive men from both communities will now be fighting together for a yes vote. It's a strange thing, but the campaign may prove a rehearsal for the very kind of collaborative politics which will be needed once the assembly is under way.

Tiger Woods, one year on – wiser, humbler and no longer a saviour

RUPERT CORNWELL

ON GOLF, THE GREAT LEVELLER

Tiger Woods surrenders his Masters jacket to Mark O'Meara Andrew Redington

BLESSED ARE the meek for they shall inherit the earth. And blessed is the game of golf, for this weekend it has made Tiger Woods – well perhaps not meek but at least a more modest soul, and, paradoxically, one more likely to inherit his sport.

Was I disappointed he didn't win the Masters? Not a bit of it. I was praying he wouldn't. I dreaded nothing more than a breathless interruption from the commentator, "Let's break off and go to Woods," followed by the sight of golf's touted superman bent over an eagle putt.

Then the earsplitting roar, the surge up the leaderboard, and another score to make a mockery of the Augusta course, as he made a mockery of it last year (and of every other golfer in the process). Thank God, it didn't happen. For the player hailed as the man who would revolutionise golf, it may be a disappointment. But Tiger's personal, and I am sure temporary, loss has been golf's gain.

A year ago in this space, immediately after Tiger had spreadeagled the field in the 1997 Masters, I was warbling about his "graceful manner" and his potential for easing America's racial tensions. Which only goes to prove, never trust a journalist with stars in his eyes. It took Tiger just a couple of months to tumble from sainthood to villainy. He was accused of the most ungraceful behaviour, of being an uppity ungrateful black (by whites) and of treachery to his race (by blacks).

He was accused of keeping his distance from the fans who made him a superstar – but wouldn't you if you had been stabbed three times by pens wielded by hysterical autograph hunters? Then there was the separate sin of snubbing an invitation from President Clinton: "Why didn't he ask me before I won the Masters?" Tiger complained. Given the Celebrity-in-Chief's constant craving to bask in even reflected glory, the excuse was not unreasonable. But it was not taken kindly by scribes whose supreme ambition is to be a regular on the White House guest list.

In America even more than other countries, the first law of the free press applies: the faster and taller they rise, the quicker and harder they fall. And Tiger, with a 21-year-old's propensity to believe the guff being written about him, and his faculties blurred by $100m-worth of product endorsements bouncing like hailstones on his head, was both uniquely qualified for the treatment and uniquely vulnerable.

But thanks to the great levellers of time and the sport of golf, we are at last getting Tiger into perspective. He may not have won a tournament in the US for nine months now, but in the great cash machine of American sport he remains, along with the soon-to-be-retiring Michael Jordan, the most valuable single commodity.

Thanks to him, golf's drawing power – and, more important, the advertising rates it commands on TV – are greater than at any time since the prime of Jack Nicklaus. Largely thanks to him, tournament prize money is set to soar. Whatever his peccadilloes, his presence at an event in 1997 puts an average 35 per cent on ticket sales. My faith in his chances of breaking down America's racial barriers may have been exaggerated, for Augusta looked as forbidding a citadel of whiteness as ever last week. But Tiger's potential to draw new generations and new minorities into golf, and to propel its standards higher, is intact.

Remember that pre-Masters pronouncement of Nicklaus: "If he plays well, he'll win by a mile, if he plays average he'll win, and even if he plays badly he'll be in contention." Well, Tiger Woods played average by his standards and he tied for eighth. And that is no failure. After all Nicklaus, the greatest golfer and the most prolific majors winner in history, took 24 years to amass his 18 titles. Tiger has already secured one. He still sits on a pinnacle of unique promise. He's still No 1 in the rankings and can count on at least 20 more years at the peak of his physical powers. That he didn't collect a second successive one merely proved how rich a game golf is.

In what other sport do so many competitors have a chance of actually winning? Most often, the victor can be predicted in advance from one of half-a-dozen teams or individuals, sometimes fewer (look no further than our own grossly overhyped Premiership, or any other national football league in Europe). Not however golf.

It possesses fabulous natural athletes like Tiger, but the sublimest of athletic skills on their own are not enough, as Woods himself now knows. Vanished is the man-child who used to boast he would win every tournament he entered. The petulance still shows, in the open irritation when a very good shot falls a few inches short of perfection. But he has learnt how hard the game truly is. He acknowledged last week with proper deference to the Almighty: "God humbles you every day, every shot."

> It took Tiger just a couple of months to tumble from sainthood to villainy. He was accused of being an uppity, ungrateful black and of treachery to his race

Week in, week out, there are 30 or 40 players capable of winning a given tournament. As no other sport, golf requires mind as well as muscle (just as well, say those of us for whom, like our 58-year-old hero Nicklaus, the half century is long since in the rear-view mirror). You may be blessed with the physique of a Greek god, the grace of a gazelle – but you don't have to be. Our own Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood, youngsters both, are not exactly sylph-like. Saint Jack himself is distinctly pudgy these days, and grimaces and winces as if he'd never struck a golf ball in his life. Yet he gave Tiger 36 years and finished two strokes ahead of him. At 41, Mark O'Meara is reassuringly broad of beam and grey around the temples. He won because of his skill, but also because of his wits, his nerve and his experience.

In sport, they say, nice guys come last. But in top-flight pro golf they tend to come first, second and third as well. No shirt-tugging, no gamesmanship, no red and yellow cards and no arguing with the referee – indeed the sole function of the referee is to rule on arcane points of golfing law. Nor are his calls disputed: John McEnroe in golf shoes would have self-destructed by the third tee. In golf self-control is all. You are playing the course, yourself and your opponents in that order. Sound boring? Perhaps. But, I suspect, it's preparing Tiger Woods for enduring success as no other sport could.

Perhaps you are worrying about an impending charisma shortage? Then you couldn't have noticed the gee-whiz, disbelieving smile of a kid called Matt Kuchar every time he hit a good shot on his way to an even par finish, the best achieved by a reigning US Amateur Champion since You Know Who. Kuchar has stardom written all over him. Tigermaniacs may soon be spoilt for choice.

Londoners should be free to vote for Red Ken

ANNE McELVOY

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

TONY BLAIR wants a mayor for London. This is one decentralisation about which he is genuinely, spontaneously enthusiastic. It is his brainchild and not like the Scottish or Welsh parliaments part of the baggage inherited from John Smith.

The precedents are good: New York, Paris, Barcelona, Berlin and Moscow all have elected mayors identifiable with the city's joys and woes. I once saw an irate grandmother brandish her umbrella at Yuri Luzhkov in protest at the state of the drains in the Russian capital. A mayor is the person we can trounce with our umbrellas when all the intermediate institutions have passed the buck. Because they need our votes next time, they are obliged to take notice.

In three weeks time, Londoners will vote in a referendum on whether they want a mayoral system and it would be extraordinary if they did not approve it. At this point, the familiar, metallic voice of Ken Livingstone will announce, repeatedly and loudly, that he covets a place in the approved list of Labour candidates.

Mr Blair very much does not want his first mayor to be Ken Livingstone. Been there: done that. Ken is about as Eighties as the Human League and Loadsamoney; and New Labour is in denial about the Eighties. It prefers not to associate its present comely form with the days when, as head of the Greater London Council, Ken could ban a champagne bar in County Hall as élitist and run minorities policies that kept the Tory tabloids in jokes about Irish, black, one-legged lesbians running self-defence classes for toddlers.

Ken is a living reminder of all that. Worse still, he is a reminder that a lot of Labour activists thoroughly enjoyed it – especially the feel-good gesture politics – the rocking against this, marching for that and rallies supporting the other, which Mr Blair finds silly and which alienate more prosaic souls.

The GLC was not the unquestioned success that Ken would have us believe. Both bureaucratic and wasteful, it pandered to the tastes and prejudices of middle-class activists. The flagship "fares fair" policy of cheap public transport caused havoc by encouraging too many people to use a system that was – and still is, heaven help us – in need of a structural overhaul. But in the end, as a victim of *la belle dame sans merci* at her most imperious, Ken won lasting sympathy. Lady Thatcher's decision to abolish the GLC made him a martyr to the cause of London.

The Millbank Tendency's response to this is straightforward: Ken must be stopped. The party's commissars are chewing their ballpoints right now, hatching plots to stop him appearing on the approved short-list. They will argue that his criticisms of New Labour policies have been so grave as to constitute outright disloyalty. Truly, Livingstone is not a natural-born Blairite. The last time I debated with him, he predicted an economic crisis that would deny Mr Blair a second term. He did not appear regretful at the prospect. Ken is at home in a recession.

But he is a member of the party's National Executive Committee, an honour to which he beat Peter Mandelson in a party-wide vote last year. It is in the name of the NEC that the vetters will decide the short-list for the mayor's job. So, it would be churlish and undemocratic to deny 50,000 London-area members a chance to vote for him.

The tactical alternative is, apparently, to put up Tony Banks, the last leader of the GLC, now a neutered enough Leftie to be Minister for Sport. To which I say: accept no substitutes. There is something about New Labour's makeover of Mr Banks that is deeply fake. He has become a house-trained pole-cat, both ineffectual and gaffe-prone. Frank Dobson, a good Old Labour vintage, doesn't want the job.

Surely, they're not serious about Glenda Jackson. Ms Jackson is oddly lacking in the very quality of showbiz appeal the job requires. She has buried her actress personality in an attempt to be taken seriously. But a London mayor should be like the city – stylish without being glamorous, a touch vulgar without being brash. Clare Short would be perfect – but her loyalties will remain with Birmingham. You can see the problem. New Labour has promoted a cast of frightfully polite people, unthreatening but bloodless. Right now, they are combing the ranks for anyone vulgar enough to take on Lord Archer but not wayward enough to embarrass Mr Blair.

Why do I care so much about Mr Livingstone's fate? Come the mayoral race, my vote would probably go to someone safe, like Chris Smith or Trevor Phillips. But banning Ken from the contest would be a mistake, both because of what it says about New Labour and what it says about Mr Blair's approach to local democracy. It would reveal that, after a landslide election-win and a blinding first year in power, he still does not trust his party to choose a modernising candidate over a socialist one. New Labour will never know its true strength until it allows real contests between right and left.

Mayors are there to do battle for their city. That means fighting central government for power and money. Devolution and the revival of local democracy are not processes that can be controlled centrally, although Mr Blair sometimes gives the impression that they can. The Scottish parliament will demand tax-raising powers. Rightly so – they are what differentiates a real parliament from a placebo one.

Elected mayors, in London and then elsewhere, will strain at the fiscal leash the Treasury has fastened to them. Responsibility for transport, police and the emergency services are just the start. Any mayors worth their salt will want to put their own projects to the voters, and seek their own solutions to infrastructural problems. In so doing, they should be answerable to the people who elect them, not enslaved to Whitehall.

The campaign to stop Ken is an example in miniature of New Labour's tendency to promise decentralisation and then inhibit choice from the centre. But local democracy means allowing people to make their own decisions and their own mistakes. As mayor for London, I would view Ken as a mistake. That doesn't mean that the Labour Party should deny voters the right to make it.

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Ernest Neal

WHEN Ernest Neal was surprised by a badger in a Gloucestershire wood on his way home after a moth-catching expedition, it was to change the course of his life. He determined to return on the following evening to watch the animals properly and so started an interest which was to remain with him for the rest of his days.

His was the first long-term scientific study of a British mammal which relied on direct observation and objective investigation and from it came his book, *The Badger*, published in 1948, the first monograph in the Collins "New Naturalist" series. It was a volume which has inspired tens of thousands of people, including me, to take an interest not only in badgers but in wildlife in general. By following Neal's advice, I found myself able to watch a nocturnal mammal and enter its life without its ever being aware of my presence.

Ernest Neal is best known for his link with badgers and that original book has been updated and rewritten several times as knowledge has improved and research techniques have been refined. The most recent edition, written in collaboration with Chris Cheeseman, was published in 1996. Neal was presented with the Stamford Raffles Award of the Zoological Society of London in 1956 for his badger work and, in 1960, was awarded a PhD for his research into badger reproductive biology. He served for over 15 years on the Consultative Panel of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on Badgers and Tuberculosis from its inception in 1975 and was recently asked to comment on the latest report on the problem by Professor John

Neal: inter-relationships

Krebs. Among the veterinarians and government scientists, he felt his was the only totally independent voice representing the interests of the badger.

Neal's interests were much wider than badgers however, and he was constantly fascinated by the complex interrelationships in both the natural world and among people. He came from a Christian household (his father was a Baptist minister) and he always looked for the best in everyone he met, an attitude which gave him a very positive outlook on life. He was educated at Taunton School and London University and his first job, in 1936, was at Rendcomb College, Cirencester. In 1946 he moved to Taunton School, where he became Second Master and a housemaster before retiring in 1971.

His captivation with interrelationships and eco-systems was something he was able to share not only through his teaching but also through writing, photography, film-making and television. In 1952, with Professor Humphrey Hewer, Neal began to make the very first film of wild badgers at night, a significant feat given the technology at the time. It was a work which required considerable dedication and took over three years to complete, using powerful lights to which the badgers had to become habituated. It was subsequently shown on television in 1954. During his lifetime, Neal took part in over 200 radio and television programmes.

Neal was one of the founder members of the Mammal Society, a unique blend of professional mammalogists and amateur enthusiasts. He believed strongly in the value of non-professional members and constantly promoted their interests, later giving substantial support to the establishment of a youth section, now called Mammalaction. He was to be the society's chairman for five years and later served for six years as its president; as such I first met him. In 1980 he was awarded the society's Silver Medal for his work on mammals and for the society. He also helped found the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation, now the Somerset Wildlife Trust, and was its chairman for 14 years. In 1976 he was appointed MBE for his work on nature conservation in Somerset.

Ernest Neal's interests were by no means confined to Britain. In 1962 he was invited by Stephen Curry, a former pupil and an entomologist with the Kenya Forestry Department to visit East Africa. Neal took his wife Betty and combined it with a celebration of their silver wedding. In his own words, "Africa became an addiction." In the late Sixties he was invited to carry out research on banded mongooses in Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda and spent four months discovering a great deal

A nocturnal photograph by Neal, who made the first ever film of wild badgers at night

about their basic biology which was previously unknown. He made a further 21 visits, many of them as a guest lecturer for Swan Hellenic and Ecosafaris. Naturally his appetite for the way ecosystems work was fed to the full here and resulted in *On Safari In East Africa – a background guide* (1991).

This book was one of the fruits of what Neal called his "bonus years", for he very nearly lost his life after an operation on his lower back in 1986. For a man who enjoyed and valued the special relationships of his family, the subsequent move to share a home with the family of one of his sons in Bedford was of great importance. Here his study, with its collection of moths, its pictures and photographs of badgers and Africa and its many books, became an encapsulation of a full and active life dedicated to sharing his knowledge with others.

Michael J. Woods

Ernest Gordon Neal, schoolmaster and biologist: born Boxmoor, Hertfordshire 20 May 1911; MBE 1976; married 1937 Elizabeth Thomson (three sons); died Bedford 5 April 1998.

Alex Ritchie

ALEX RITCHIE, who achieved international fame with his epic rescue of Richard Branson and his Virgin Global Challenger balloon at the very start of their attempt to fly around the world in January 1997, was an engineer who contributed as much as anyone to the rebirth of interest in long distance ballooning.

His trademarks were inventiveness and versatility, a combination that led some to dub him "a cross between Heath Robinson and the 21st century". He was an allrounder who had mastered technologies ranging from turbojets to gas diesel engines. He was involved not only with ballooning, but other "retail" cutting-edge ventures including the successful attack by Richard Noble's Thrust SSC on the world land speed record.

On a personal level as well, Ritchie fitted the legend of gifted Scots engineers who helped build industrial Britain. He was quiet and understated, yet a splendid storyteller. Above all he was cool under pressure – a quality never more in evidence than during the drama in the early hours of 6 January 1997.

It occurred less than 24 hours after Virgin Global Challenger, carrying Branson and his two co-pilots Ritchie and Per Lindstrand, had taken off from Morocco and set off east across the Sahara desert. The balloon had crossed into Algeria at an altitude of 30,000 feet when it began losing height precipitously, hurtling towards the ground at 40 feet per second.

Instantly grasping the urgency of the moment, Ritchie climbed on to the roof of the capsule, wearing a parachute and strapped to Challenger's fuselage. He jettisoned a fuel tank and other equipment, slowing the balloon's descent

A cross between Heath Robinson and the 21st century
Ritchie (left) with Richard Branson, in January 1997

and enabling it to make an orderly landing. Branson later described the experience as "terrifying". Without his co-pilot, he gratefully acknowledged, "we would have gone into the ground. He saved our lives and is the hero of the hour. He showed unbelievable bravery."

Ritchie himself however was unflappable. Algeria was and remains an exceedingly dangerous country. Yet he was less concerned with the arrival of the helicopter gunship sent by the government which arrived to carry them back to civilisation, than with getting up-to-date on the latest football results.

Almost exactly a year later, also in Morocco, came the skydiving accident which would ultimately claim his life. Training for another balloon bid, he fell some 13,000 feet onto a concrete car park when his parachute failed to open properly. He was taken back to Britain with a broken leg, pelvis and arm. There he underwent nine operations but developed a form of blood poisoning which proved fatal.

Alex Ritchie was a fully qualified and highly experienced gas balloon pilot and hot air balloon pilot, who designed and built the burners and engines for all three Virgin Global Challenger ventures. After taking a science degree at the University of Natal, and conducting machine tool research at Cambridge University, he spent three years as a project engineer for British Leyland. He later had spells at Noel Penny Turbines and Caterpillar Tractor, working on automotive gas turbines. At the time of his death he headed the family business J. Alex Ritchie, where he worked with his son.

His connections with Virgin Challenger however will live on. Richard Branson plans to dedicate next winter's round-the-world attempt to him. Even more pertinently, it will use a capsule designed and built by Alex Ritchie.

Rupert Cornwell

James Alexander Ritchie, engineer: born Glasgow 19 January 1945; married 1970 Jill Neave (two sons); died London 11 April 1998.

Yves Mourousi

YVES MOUROUSI achieved fame as a television presenter of current affairs. The news of his death from a heart attack was carried by all the television and radio stations in France and everyone quoted the habitual "Bonjour" with which he had begun his lunch-time programme on the station TF1. Several wondered how he would have announced his own death, and it was suggested that he would have chosen to say, "*Bonjour – ou plutôt, Adieu*". Directness was his hallmark.

The evening after he died, TF1 paid a solemn tribute to him. Words of praise and sympathy were spoken by his fellow presenter, Patrick Poivre D'Arvor, and by the Vice President of Francis Bouygues's company, Emile Mougeotte.

And this was ironical. It was the same Bouygues who had become the largest shareholder in TF1 when it was privatised in 1987 and who had put an end to Mourousi's programme within little more than a year of taking charge. It was thus some ten years ago that Mourousi had last

Mourousi: *grand seigneur*

functioned as a presenter. Yet he was well remembered, and that someone should have left such a clear memory behind him in the changing world of television is remarkable. It reflects the continued controversy that surrounds the management of the French television industry.

A viewers' association that was opposed to the privatisation of TF1, looked back to the achievements of the programme as part of the national heritage, "as much as is the Louvre, the Château of Versailles or the Eiffel Tower". Mourousi is remembered as being part of that past.

He insisted that when he appeared in people's homes at lunch time, he was doing two things. He was passing on information, and he was entertaining; this was "*politique spectacle*". Thus he interviewed Brezhnev in the Kremlin, Colonel Khadafi in Tripoli, Chinese spokesmen from Tiananmen Square, Edgard Pisani from the roof of the Arab Institute, from where one looks across Paris to the buttresses of Nôtre Dame.

And when he interviewed a President of the Republic, he wanted to present a man. When de Gaulle appeared on television it was the Republic that had come into the living-room. Mourousi wanted more of that. In his famous interview with Mitterrand in 1985, he asked the President if he had seen Bresson's latest film, he tested his knowledge of current slang and having shown an alluring commercial slot, he enquired as to his reactions. This was an adaptation of the popular dictum that if you want to judge a politician you ask him if he knows the price of a metro ticket. Asking Giscard d'Estaing about the diamonds that he had been given by the African leader Bokassa was putting to the test Raymond Aron's dictum that it was difficult for a statesman to tell lies on television.

To do all this, Mourousi also presented himself. Sometimes dressing eccentrically, sometimes incongruously, half-sitting on President Mitterrand's desk as he spoke to him, capable of imitating his interviewee, he always sought to achieve the unexpected. Those who worked with him have stories of how he wanted to do everything himself, creating chaos as he organised the cameras, shifted the sets, bristled with new ideas and answered five telephones. He was fortunate in having Marie-Laure Augry alongside him as co-presenter.

He was also something of a *grand seigneur*. He used to display recently published books at the end of his programme and an author once expressed disappointment that although he had sent his book, it had never been displayed. He was told that he should have had a word with Mourousi's chauffeur, just as, in the old days, one approached a *grand seigneur* via his *valet de chambre*.

Mourousi avoided the two constant dangers of French television: the heavy-handed, patronising elitism and the low quality populism. But he did not meet the needs of commercialism and he was sacked.

Outside television Mourousi had many interests. He was the owner of a trendy bar, Look, the organiser of variety shows, a well-known figure in Paris night-life and the festivities of the Club Med. After his dismissal he worked for some time with Radio Monte-Carlo, engaged in publicity for motorbikes (he became known as "Monsieur Moto") and wrote books on politics. Unfortunately, his book on the neo-Gaullist Philippe Séguin was completed just before the political upheaval that followed the regional elections of March and Mourousi had stated that he would have to rewrite it. Most importantly the Mayor of Paris had invited Mourousi to organise the capital's millennium festivities.

Born in Suresnes in 1942, he was brought up by his grandparents and educated at the lycée Lakanal at Sceaux. He became a trainee for French radio. In 1967 he went to stay with his then fiancée in the region of Pau, when a nearby earthquake gave him the opportunity of reporting what was happening. Consequently he lost his fiancée, whom he had abandoned, but acquired a job since he had impressed the director of French radio. He transferred to TF1 in 1975, after a successful radio career.

His wife, Véronique Audemar died of meningitis in 1992. Mourousi's death leaves a daughter, Sophie, aged 12.

Douglas Johnson

Yves Mourousi, television presenter: born Suresnes, France 20 July 1942; married Véronique Audemar (died 1992; one daughter); died Paris 7 April 1998.

Qadi Abd al-Rahman al-Iryani

ABD AL-RAHMAN bin Yahya al-Iryani belonged to that select group who played an active and influential role in the politics of the Yemen both before the September 1962 revolution – which put an end to the absolute rule of the Zaydi imams that had lasted for ten and a half centuries – and afterwards.

For over 30 years he was at the heart of the Yemeni political scene, not only when North Yemen had become the Yemen Arab Republic but also earlier, when it was known as the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen, and he was intimately involved in the events which paved the way for the eventual emergence of the Yemen as a modern state.

He was born in the mountain village of Iryan, the home town of his ancestors (hence the name al-Iryani), in the district of al-Qafr, some 90 miles south of Sanaa, into a family well-known for producing judges and scholars and whose members inherited the privileged title of *qadi* (judge). Although Iryan was in the Shafi'i (Sunni) part of the Yemen the Iryanis were Zaydi Shia who had served the Zaydi imams faithfully for generations. Abd al-Rahman's father, Qadi Yahya bin Muhammad, knew the Koran by heart, was a poet and for several years head of the High Court of Appeal during the imamate of the Imam Yahya Hamid al-Din (who reigned from 1904 to 1948).

The young Abd al-Rahman received a traditional education in Sanaa which meant studying Arabic grammar and syntax, Islamic jurisprudence, the Koran and the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed and was taught by his father and other scholars.

Iryani excelled in jurisprudence and was subsequently appointed judge at al-Nadira, in the province of Ibb. In 1944 he became one of the leading activists in a clandestine political organisation, the *Jam'iyat al-Islah* (the Reform Group) which opposed the Imam Yahya and the rule of the Hamid al-Din family. In the autumn of 1944 Iryani was arrested along with other members of the organisation and imprisoned at Hajja in north-west Yemen. The following year, however, Sayf al-Islam Ahmad, the Crown Prince, was prevailed upon to release Iryani who was then summoned by him to work in the southern city of Ta'izz which was the Crown Prince's permanent residence.

Iryani supported the coup in February 1948 that saw the assassination of Imam Yahya and the proclamation of Sayyid Abdullah bin Ahmad al-Wazir as Imam. He was appointed first secretary of the Consultative Council but a month later Imam Yahya's son Ahmad (now Imam) had regained control of Sanaa. Iryani refused to flee the country, was arrested on 14 March and despatched to Hajja, where he was imprisoned once again, this time for six years.

Iryani's release from prison and his regaining favour with Imam Ahmad were the result of the friendship he struck up with the Imam's son Sayf al-Islam Muhammad al-Badr. Al-Badr was known for his liberal and progressive ideas and it was in him that the hopes of many who wanted political reform now rested. Iryani was instrumental in promoting propaganda on behalf of al-Badr that he was the ideal choice for designation as Crown Prince. This was then enthusiastically embraced by Imam Ahmad, who ordered Iryani to draw up a document by which allegiance would be legally obtained for his son, and got him to procure allegiance from the ulema and notables at Zabid in Ta'izz. Iryani was subsequently appointed a member of the judicial High Shari'wa Court.

Imam Ahmad's increasingly despotic and arbitrary rule, however, caused Qadi Iryani to support Sayf al-Islam Abdullah (Ahmad's brother) and Col Ahmad al-Thulaya in their revolt against the Imam in April 1955. Having been led on to the square at Ta'izz where the Imam himself was directing the executions, Iryani was reprieved at the very last moment. The Imam looked at him and declared, "*afawnaak*" – "We forgive you!"

A few months later he was appointed a member of the 10-man Consultative Council headed by Crown Prince al-Badr. From 1958 to 1962 he was Minister of State, accompanying the Imam when he went to Rome in 1959 for medical treatment, and was a minister in the week-long government of Imam al-Badr in mid-September 1962.

After the revolution of 26 September 1962, which was organised by a group of army officers and then maintained for the next five years by a considerable Egyptian military presence, Iryani was appointed Minister of Justice and from then until 1967, when he became President, he was, at various times, a member of the ruling Command Council, deputy premier and prime minister. In November 1965 he led the Republican delegation to the Peace Conference at Harad on the coastal plain which was an attempt to bring an end to the civil war between the Republicans and the Royalists, as the partisans of the deposed Imam were called, who were backed mainly by the Saudis.

In early November 1967, when the Egyptians had just evacuated the Yemen, Abdullah Sallal, who had been President since the revolution, was deposed in a peaceful military coup. Iryani formed the Republican Council consisting of himself as President and two other members. He was ousted in the coup of 1974 led by Ibrahim al-Hamdi and had to leave the Yemen. He set up residence in Damascus but in 1980 President Ali Abdullah Salih invited him back. Although he visited the Yemen regularly after that date he preferred to live most of the time in the Syrian capital.

Qadi Iryani possessed considerable political insight and sensitivity. He knew how to handle the most conservative of the Zaydi ulema, traditionalist tribal leaders, as well as Baathist and leftist intellectuals, and communicated brilliantly with them all. It is due very much to his efforts that the "national reconciliation" of 1970, when many prominent former royalists returned to Sanaa to take an active part in the government, turned out largely to be a success.

He was also a scholar and a poet. While in al-Qahira prison at Hajja he edited a collection of the poems of the renowned 18th/19th-century Yemeni poet Abd al-Rahman al-Anisi. During his retirement he edited an edition of an important work by the 17th-century Zaydi theologian Salih al-Maqbali.

Iryani: political insight

Iryani was a great patriot who resented foreign interference in Yemeni affairs whether it came from the Saudis, the Egyptians or from Socialist or Baathist Arab States. He strove unceasingly to unite North and South Yemen and so the eventual unification which took place when he was an old man of 80 must have brought him considerable happiness.

The Iryani family is still prominent in Yemen society, both politically and culturally. A nephew of the Qadi, Dr Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, is the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, his nephew and son-in-law Mutahhar is a well-known scholar and poet, and his son Yahya is the Yemeni ambassador in Warsaw.

A. B. D. R. Eagle

Abd al-Rahman bin Yahya al-Iryani, politician, jurist and literary scholar: born Iryan, Yemen 1910; President of the Yemen Arab Republic 1967-74; married (five sons, two daughters); died Damascus, Syria 14 March 1998.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Sir Patrick Brown, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Transport, 58; Mr Roy Cameron, former chief constable, Dumfries and Galloway, 51; Mr Ian Cawsey MP, 38; Miss Julie Christie, actress, 58; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, former deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, 67; Mr Bradford Dillman, actor, 68; Sir John Gielgud CH, actor, 94; Mr Gerry Gillman, former trade union leader, 71; Mr Ivor Guest, writer on ballet, 75; Lord Hastings, farmer and former government minister, 66; Miss Valerie Hobson (Mrs John Profumo), former actress, 81; The Most Rev Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, 51; Mr Paddy Hopkirk, racing rally driver, 65; Mr Julian Lloyd Webber, cellist, 47; Miss Loretta Lynn, country singer, 63; Mr Michael Maclagan, former Richmond Herald of Arms, 84; Colonel Sir Robert Macrae, former Lord Lieutenant of Orkney, 83; The Right Rev Michael Marshall, Priest-in-Charge, Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, 62; Baroness Masham of Ilton, 63; The Rt Rev John Oliver, Bishop of Hereford, 63; Mr Patrick Ramsay, former Controller, BBC Scotland, 72; The Right Rev Leslie Rees, Assistant Bishop, Winchester, 79; Professor John Roberts, historian and former warden, Merton College, Oxford, 70; The Ven Raymond Roberts, former Chaplain of the Fleet, 67; Mr David Skipper, education consultant, 67; Mr Red Steiger, actor, 73; Dr Howard Stoate MP, 44; Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 47; Sir Peter Thompson, Life President, NFC plc, 70; Mr George Walker, former chairman and chief executive, Brent Walker, 69; Baroness Warnock, former mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, 74.

Anniversaries

Births: Arnold Joseph Toynbee, historian, 1889; François Duvalier, Haitian dictator ("Papa Doc"), 1907. **Deaths:** Thomas George Frederick Handel, composer, violinist and organist, 1759; Ernest Bevin, statesman and trade union leader, 1951; Agnes Elisabeth Luyens (Mrs Edward Clark), composer, 1983; Simone de Beauvoir, writer and feminist, 1986; Leslie Charteris (Leslie Charles Bowyer Yin), novelist and creator of "The Saint", 1993; Burl Ives (Burl Icle Ivanhoe Ives), actor and singer, 1995. **On this day:** Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* published, 1828. **Today is** the Feast Day of Saints Antony, John and Eustace, St Ardalion, St Benezet, St Bernard of Tiron or Abbeville, St Caradoc, St John of Vilna, St Lambert of Lyons, Saints Tibartius, Valerius and Maximus and The Martyrs of Lithuania.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Princess Alexandra attends a 50th Anniversary Concert to be given by the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain at the Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at **Horse Guards**, 11am: 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at **Buckingham Palace**, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

هكذا من الأصل

With more cash chasing fewer shares, the bull run is not over

THE WEEK AHEAD

DEREK PAIN

NEVER before have blue chips enjoyed such a majestic run. In only 10 weeks Footsie achieved a near 20 per cent advance and has just about doubled in the past four years – comfortably its most outstanding display in its 14 years existence.

Such a performance has, probably for the first time, silenced the bears. After being proved wrong so often they have, at least for the time being, decided to keep their collective heads below the parapet.

Clearly such heady progress cannot continue. But there appears to be a growing feeling that over the next few years shares, particularly blue chips, will make further headway. Some strategists are banking on Footsie at 6,600 by the end of this year and there is even talk of 8,000 as the millennium dawns.

Andy Hartwell, strategist at SG Securities, says: "We are standing potentially on the threshold of a golden age for equities, particularly as Europe adopts further reforms to its pensions system and, with that, rebalances portfolios away from bonds towards equities."

He sees Footsie at 6,000 points at the end of this year and standing at 6,300 at millennium time.

Bob Semple and David McBain at NatWest Securities are also on 6,000 for this year. They say: "The bull run is not yet over. Looking out through 1999 the market will run to fresh highs."

As Mr Hartwell indicates, the sheer weight of money seeking a home will be a significant influence. Institutions are flush with cash. Some cash mountains have grown on the back of a reluctance to believe in the bull market; the continuing preference for cash rather than shares in takeover bids; the stream of special dividends and the seemingly unending march of share buybacks.

London – shares and sterling – is currently regarded as an ideal haven for overseas cash and the advent of the euro next year could even enhance its appeal still further.

Another often overlooked factor is the dwindling pool of shares. Besides the greater use of cash in takeover bids, shares are disappearing in the relentless pursuit of share buybacks.

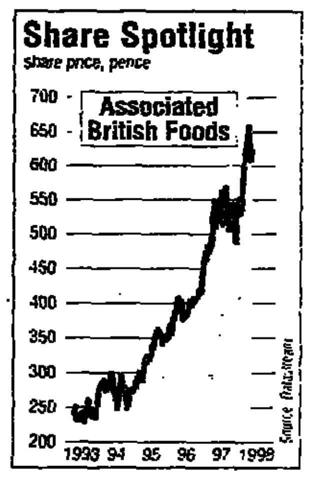
So pundits may huff and puff about the economy running out of steam. Some dismal souls even suggest a recession could soon be in play, but more and more cash chasing fewer and fewer shares represents a compelling argument for the continuing strength of equities, always assuming New York does not misbehave.

Much of this year's progress appears to stem from institutional investors rushing to try and recapture the potential rewards they squandered by sitting complacently on the sidelines as the bull market romped ahead.

The arrival of Halifax and the rest and the raging speculation among financials, making up around 30 per cent of Footsie, was responsible for much of last year's progress.

Share Spotlight

share price, pence



This year's advance has been more evenly spread.

And, unlike last year, mid and small cap shares have enjoyed the bullish embrace. They were neglected for a long time. So if, on historic measurements, blue chip valuations may seem stretched there is still plenty of old fashioned value on the stock market under card.

Indeed such has been the bargain hunting that small caps actually achieved the rare distinction of outperforming their blue chip peers last month.

A few hiccups occurred last week, leaving Footsie and the mid and small cap indices below their peaks. But it could be argued, shares needed to *pause for breath after their earlier heroics. The question is: for how long?*

The long bull run has wrongfooted *the formidable army of strategists.* Even the more optimistic have, *in fact, been too pessimistic as they under*estimated Footsie's strength.

Messrs Semple and McBain are among those looking for a period of consolidation. Mr Hartwell, faced with the inevitable question how much better can it get, says the answer depends on your time scale. In the short term probably not a lot; longer term we may be on the threshold his "golden age".

The four days of this week may not offer much of a guide to the future. The shortened Easter weeks are not noted for their stock market displays. Many big hitters are away from their desks and, with some exceptions, most of the corporate action that does occur moves into the public domain to the dismay of those involved. They would much prefer to wait until the stock market is once again in full swing.

Only one blue chip is scheduled to disturb the expected lethargy. ***Associated British Foods'*** *six-month figures* are unlikely to create much excitement.

The seemingly inexorable strength of sterling and the sale of ABF's Irish supermarkets will erode profits: a decline from £194m to around £180m is possible.

Mind you, ABF has the ability to produce a surprise. It is, following its Irish sale to Tesco, cash-rich and has the ammunition to mount a big takeover bid.

A strike at sugar group Tate & Lyle has long been rumoured. ABF's existing sugar operations would ensure monopoly problems. Still, there is a suspicion that if ABF was prepared to argue its case it could obtain clearance.

It has made at least two attempts to raid its £1bn-plus cash pile, bidding for Dalgety's agricultural products side and Elementis' malts business. Each time it was outbid.

Share Price Data

*Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics. Other details: x Ex rights; x Ex-dividend; a Ex-all; s Suspended; p Partly Paid; np Nil Paid; *AIM.*

Source: Bloomberg

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Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes

at 5:00pm

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
BTR Plc	40.20m	Abbey Nat	13.19m	Dana Petroleum	11.92m	Smithkline Beech	8.24m
Signet Group	23.30m	Gen Elec	13.14m	Norwich Union	11.74m	Brit Steel	7.86m
Belgo Group	15.42m	Asda Group	12.87m	Shell Transp	10.40m	Blue Circle Inds	7.74m
MFI Furniture	14.55m	Reuters Grp	12.65m	Rentokil Initial	9.78m	Vodafone Group	7.20m
Halifax	13.21m	BG	12.50m	Lloyds TSB Group	8.75m	Safeway	6.0m

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open	6055.2		11:00	6098.6	Up 43.4	14:00	6073.5	Up 18.3
9:00	6051.0	Down 4.2	12:00	6091.5	Up 36.3	15:00	6076.4	Up 21.2
10:00	6090.1	Up 34.9	13:00	6071.7	Up 16.5	16:00	6088.7	Up 33.5
						Close	6105.5	Up 50.3

Share listings (52 week High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, Yld, P/E, Code)

Sections: Alcoholic Beverages; Banks, Merchant; Banks, Retail; Breweries Pubs & Rest; Building/Construction; Building Materials; Chemicals; Distributors; Diversified Industrials; Electricity; Electronics; Engineering; Engineering Vehicles; Extractive Industries; Food Producers; Gas Distribution; Health Care; Household Goods; Insurance; Investment Trusts; Leisure & Hotels; Life Assurance; Media; Oil Integrated; Oil Exploration & Production; Other Financial; Paper & Printing; Pharmaceuticals; Property; Retailers, Food; Retailers, General; Support Services; Telecommunications; Textiles & Apparel; Tobacco; Transport; Water

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Offer ends 30.06.98 on lines installed by 31.07.98. Example: Connection to BT's ISDN2 start-up package costs £99 (ex VAT). Line rental and minimum contract periods apply

Government Securities

Sections: Index-Linked; Perpetual; Shorts; Mediums; Longs

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Bovis	144.75	0.0
Marchpole	262.50	0.00

source: Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com/uk

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Spotlight turns on UK groups after Wall Street deals launch two new US giants

Mega-merger creates biggest American bank

By John Willcock

THE CURRENT bout of consolidation in the US banking industry took on an air of near panic yesterday morning as two mega-mergers were announced within an hour of each other, creating America's first and fifth biggest banks.

BankAmerica and NationsBank agreed to merge in a $60bn stock swap, creating the largest bank in American history with $570bn in assets.

The news followed Banc One's own $29bn merger agreement with First Chicago NBD and came just one week after the $70bn merger between Citicorp and Travelers Group.

The news sent bank shares surging in early trading in the US while the rest of the market on Wall Street, in contrast, suffered a poor day. BankAmerica rose $5 to $91.625 and NationsBank gained $5.9375 to $82.375. Banc One shares rose $1.6875 to $63.875 after its own announcement. Merrill Lynch joined in the action by jumping $4.625 to $99.5625 after the brokerage reported first-quarter earnings ahead of Wall Street estimates.

Shares in British banks are also expected to soar today when the London stock market reopens after the bank holiday weekend. Those seen as potential merger targets include NatWest, Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland, and Alliance & Leicester. Insurers and investment banks are also likely to attract attention, now that cross-selling within one umbrella institution seems to be back in fashion.

More American banks are expected to be swept up in the merger mania, with names like Chase Manhattan and JP Morgan being touted as possible candidates on Wall Street. Analysts said the most powerful spur was the lack of any obvious alternative strategy.

"There's not a lot of revenue growth in banking," said Diane Glossman, an analyst at Lehman Brothers. "People are looking for a variety of ways to pump up revenues and come up with the means to spend on technology."

NationsBank, based in North Carolina, and BankAmerica, based in San Francisco, said their merger would not result in any earnings dilution and would establish a company with $45bn in shareholder equity and a market capitalisation of $133bn.

World's biggest financial institutions

	Market cap $bn
Travelers/Citicorp	156
NationsBank/BankAmerica	133
Lloyds TSB	88
HSBC Holdings	81
Fannie Mae	70
UBS/SBC	67
Chase Manhattan	61
ING Group	61
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi	55

Biggest banks in the US

	Total assets $bn
NationsBank/BankAmerica	$523.2
Chase Manhattan	$365.5
Citibank	$310.9
J.P. Morgan	$262.2
Banc One-First Chicago	$230.0
First Union	$205.7
Bankers Trust	$140.1
Wells Fargo	$97.5
Norwest	$88.5
Fleet	$85.5

Hugh McColl, chief executive of NationsBank, who will become chairman of the merged bank, predicted: "Our earnings will approach $10bn in our first year together. We will serve 29 million households and 2 million businesses. We will rank number one by a wide margin in domestic deposits with an 8.1 per cent US market share."

He said: "This is a watershed in the financial services industry. Together we will be America's bank."

David Coulter, chairman and chief executive of BankAmerica, said population growth in the two regions served by the banks would be a major factor, estimated to grow by 9 million people between 1996 and 2001.

John B McCoy, chief executive officer of Banc One, said yesterday that once the merger with First Chicago NBD was complete, the merged company might seek more acquisitions. He also stressed the need to create a cross-selling financial services group. "That's really what we want to provide – one stop shopping," he said.

When asked whether the bank would look to buy a stockbroker or move into other regions, Mr McCoy said: "I think it's very possible that we will look at a number of areas and those that help us be national, those that fit in with our strategy are very logical to do."

He said the merger with First Chicago would result in fewer employees for the combined company, but that much of the reduction was likely to come through attrition.

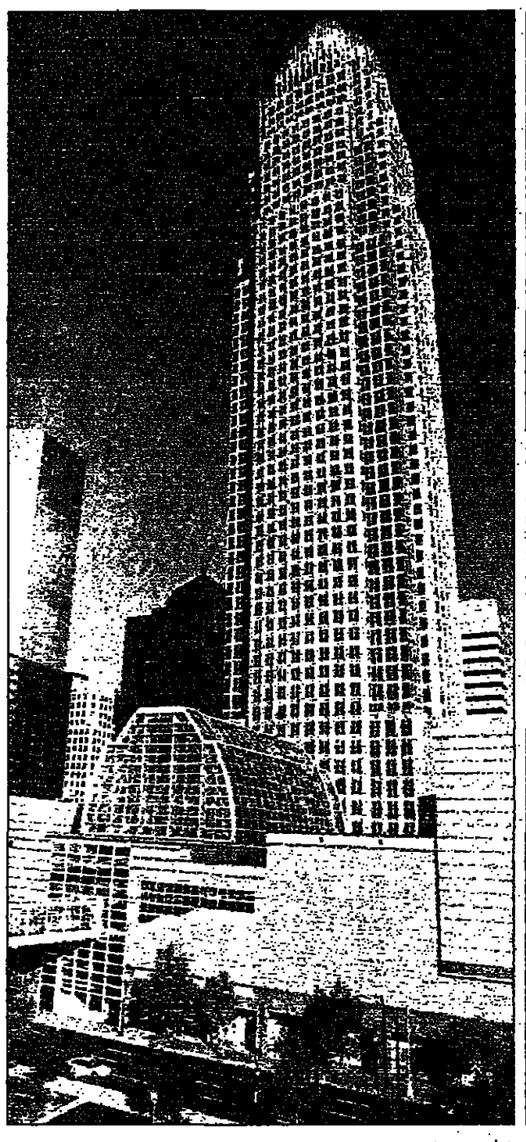
"Most everyone who has a job today that wants a job will still be able to be employed because this transaction will take five months to get approved," he said. "So with attrition and everything, I think most of the employees will be very comfortable."

Banc One, based in Columbus, Ohio, will own 60 per cent of the new company, which will be based in Chicago. The merged bank will have 2,000 branches and be the US's biggest lender to small businesses. It will also be the second-largest credit card issuer, second only to Citigroup.

The deal was struck after both companies had difficulty increasing revenues after earlier mergers. First Chicago merged with Detroit-based NBD in 1996, a merger of equals that didn't perform as well as expected. Banc One last year imposed more central control over its once-independent local banks and bought the country's third-largest credit card company.

John B McCoy will become chief executive and president of the company. First Chicago chairman and chief executive Verne Istock will become chairman.

As if to emphasise the global nature of banking consolidation, Greek shares soared yesterday after Bank of Piraeus unexpectedly offered the highest bid for a controlling stake in Macedonian Thrace Bank, a bank controlled by three state banks.



Aiming high: The NationsBank corporate offices (left) tower over the skyline of Charlotte, North Carolina; The BankAmerica flag (above) flies outside company headquarters in San Francisco; Hugh McColl (below), NationsBank chief executive, says the merger will create 'America's bank'
Photographs: AP

Deal should send European shares soaring

By Andrew Yates

EUROPEAN banking shares are expected to soar today as shock waves from two of the biggest financial deals the world has ever seen reverberate around the world's stock markets.

Merger mania gripped Wall Street yesterday, adding billions to the value of US financial stocks, after BankAmerica and NationsBank announced a $60bn merger and Banc One and First Chicago unveiled a $30bn partnership which will create the largest and fifth biggest banks in America respectively.

Banking shares jumped for the second time in seven days yesterday as analysts predicted that the consolidation in the industry still had some way to go and more mega-deals could be just around the corner.

US financial stocks have already risen to record highs in the wake of last week's announcement that Citicorp and Travelers Group were to merge to create an $80bn financial powerhouse in the largest deal in corporate history.

The fundamental restructuring of the world's banking system initiated by the Americans is likely to change the face of the global finance industry and have widespread implications for most European banks.

The deals will once again turn the bid spotlight on UK banks, and analysts expect the news to send their shares, and the stock market generally, to new heights. The banking sector has already enjoyed a storming run over the last few months, comfortably outperforming the wider stock market and seeing stock prices rise to record levels.

The move will put increasing pressure on UK banks to consider mergers and some City observers believe that it is only a matter of time before several of Britain's financial giants have to join forces to compete with the banking goliaths being created across the Atlantic.

High street giants such as NatWest, Barclays, Halifax and Royal Bank of Scotland could be likely merger or takeover candidates, and consolidation in the sector could see some of Britain's best known banking names disappear over the next few years.

The American deals will also increase pressure for cross-border deals to create a pan-European bank.

The rapid consolidation of the US banking sector is likely to prompt banks such as Lloyds TSB, which has already announced it is looking for significant new purchases, to accelerate expansion plans and hit the acquisition trail.

As well as a sharp rise in the shares in all four American banks involved in the mergers yesterday, other financial stocks such as JP Morgan and Merrill Lynch and regional banking groups leapt upwards as US traders speculated on who would be next takeover target. However Citicorp's and Travelers' stock slipped after the sharp rise in their share prices last week as the market reacted to the creation of two significant new competitors.

US analysts said they expected Chase Manhattan, currently the largest US bank, to make a strike in the wake of the deals announced yesterday and believe it could be eyeing up Merrill Lynch. JP Morgan could attract a big investment bank such as Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

Regional banks such as PNC Bank, KeyCorp, Wells Fargo & Co. and Fleet Financial Group are also likely to be considering mergers.

Domestic economy 'unhurt by the strong pound'

THE STRONG pound is not harming Britain's domestic economy, however much it is harming exports, according to a post-Budget survey of business expectations by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group. Confidence in exports has reached its lowest level for seven years, but the survey suggests that businesses are expecting the fall off in growth in the UK to be gradual and that the economy is heading for a soft landing. Business leaders are still confident about increasing sales and profits.

Hepher set for £1m payoff

MICHAEL HEPHER could receive a payoff of more than £1m after stepping down as chief executive of Charterhouse Bank, less than two and a half years after receiving a similar golden handshake for leaving his post as group managing director of BT. Mr Hepher has left the group in the wake of the decision by Credit Commercial de France to buy the remaining 50 per cent stake in Charterhouse owned by BHF, the German bank.

Mis-selling costs could rise

BACON & WOODROW, the actuaries, have warned that with-profit policyholders, independent financial advisers and insurance company shareholders are having to bear the brunt of the cost of clearing up the pensions mis-selling scandal. The company estimates that the total cost of the scandal could rise to £22bn if all investors responded to requests for information.

Ofex float for medical system

HEALIX, which has developed a computer information system to give doctors patient information and help track diseases, has announced plans to float on the Ofex market at the end of next month. It is hoping to raise £1.5m to market the system, valuing the group at around £4m. Grahame Sewell, chief executive, and Laurence Greetham, publishing and communications director, will own shares worth almost £1m each after the flotation.

GUS wins £544m battle for Metromail

By Andrew Yates

GUS, the catalogue retailer, has taken control of Metromail, the American marketing database group, for $910m (£544m) after winning a bitter bid battle with ABI, its US rival.

GUS has amassed 91 per cent of the group, overcoming ABI's legal challenge to the bid and ending any possibility of an eleventh hour higher offer from a competitor.

GUS will now be able to concentrate on winning another prized target: Argos, the catalogue retailer. Stuart Rose, Argos's newly installed chief executive, is embarking on a frantic round of meetings with institutional shareholders next week in an effort to thwart GUS' £1.9bn hostile bid for the group.

City observers believe the outcome of the deal remains on a knife edge, although Mr Rose faces a difficult task persuading shareholders to ignore the cash offer.

The acquisition of Metromail will make GUS one of the largest providers of tailor-made marketing information in the US and further its ambition to become a global force in the industry.

Metromail specialises in providing lists for retailers and phone companies which can be used to target customers. It attempts to identify those people who are most likely to buy its clients' products.

For example, some of its main customers are nappy makers who pay Metromail for lists of expectant mothers. However, along with rivals it has been blamed for adding to the amount of junk mail put through people's letter boxes every day.

Metromail's sales have doubled to $329m (£197m) since 1993 and the group employs 3,200 people. GUS will merge Metromail's databases with those of Experian, its existing marketing information group, which serves mainly financial services groups.

Experian specialises in identifying different social groupings from post codes and providing credit checks for banks and financial institutions.

Asia's economic crisis will slow world growth, says IMF

From John Carlin
in Washington

THE International Monetary Fund forecast yesterday that world growth would slow to 3.1 per cent this year, down from 4.1 per cent in 1997, as Asia's economic flu spreads its contagion around the globe.

But, according to the IMF's World Economic Outlook report released yesterday in Washington, growth would recover to 3.7 per cent in 1999.

The report, a diagnosis of the economic health of IMF member states, painted a largely rosy panorama for all parts of the world with the exception of Asia. Among the major industrialised nations it is Japan's outlook that is by far the gloomiest.

"Risks are about evenly balanced around the world growth forecast," IMF chief economist Michael Mussa told a news conference yesterday. "We may have upside potential for North America and Continental Europe, but there is some downside risk in Asia and a number of other developing countries heavily dependant on commodity exports."

The IMF report said that Japan would be hit more strongly by Asia's economic turmoil than any other G-7 nation because of its high lending levels to the region and its tight trade links.

Mr Mussa said the IMF expected zero growth in Japan this year, but added that could be optimistic.

"Zero could be hard to achieve," he said. "It looks as if during the first half of this year we are looking at GDP heading down ... The fiscal stimulus offers some reasonable hope that in the second half there will be some resumption of positive growth."

Asia's woes had had a short-term beneficial effect, by contrast, on the US economy by preventing it from overheating after eight years of impressive growth. But the negative impact of the Asia crisis on American trade could hurt the dollar, prompting a possible adjustment of the booming stock market.

"In the United States the crisis and its repercussions appear for the time being to have obviated the need for a tightening of monetary policy to restrain the growth of demand," Mr Mussa said, but he added: "If the economy doesn't slow down by itself we may see the Fed having to firm monetary conditions some time later this year."

The IMF report said there was little risk of global deflation, conditions being significantly different from those experienced during the Great Depression of 1929. If the signs were that global growth was going to slow down further central banks would react by lowering interest rates.

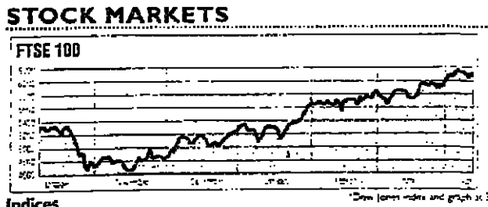
"Fortunately growth in North America and western Europe has been well sustained and appears likely to remain so in th period ahead," the report said.

Economic growth
per cent

	1997	1998 forecast	1999 forecast
Global	4.1	3.1	3.8
US	3.8	2.9	2.2
EU	2.7	2.7	2.8
Japan	0.9	0.1	1.8
S.Korea	5.5	-0.8	4.1
Developing Countries	5.8	4.0	5.3
Asia	6.7	4.4	5.9
Central & S.America	5.0	3.1	4.3
Former Eastern Bloc	1.7	2.9	4.8
Central & E.Europe	2.6	3.9	4.2
Russia	0.4	1.4	5.6

Source: IMF

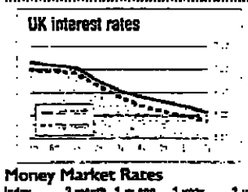
STOCK MARKETS

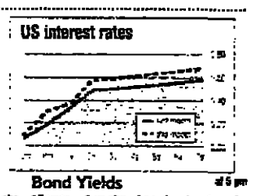


Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6105.50	0.00	0.00	6134.90	4231.60	3.29
FTSE 250	5529.30	0.00	0.00	5562.60	4394.20	3.00
FTSE 350	2920.40	0.00	0.00	2934.00	2089.50	3.24
FTSE All Share	2844.25	0.00	0.00	2856.89	2070.00	3.22
FTSE SmallCap	2634.30	0.00	0.00	2641.40	2182.10	2.90
FTSE Fledgling	1410.30	0.00	0.00	1415.30	1225.20	3.25
FTSE AIM	1063.20	0.00	0.00	1095.70	865.90	1.06
Dow Jones	8952.02	-42.34	-0.47	9094.76	6356.78	1.56
Nikkei	16317.56	-163.51	-0.99	20910.79	14488.21	0.93
Hang Seng	11342.02	27.56	0.24	16620.31	7909.13	3.96
Dax	5317.32	47.76	0.91	5357.05	3256.96	1.53

INTEREST RATES





Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 yr chg	1 year	1 yr chg
UK	7.55	1.11	7.54	0.51
US	5.69	-0.16	5.73	-0.59
Japan	0.68	0.12	0.75	0.01
Germany	3.63	0.40	3.92	0.52

Bond Yields at 5 pm

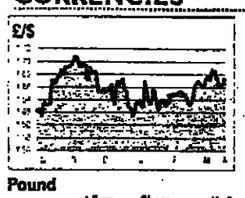
Index	10 year	1 yr chg	Long bond	1 yr chg
UK	5.75	-1.90	5.67	-2.13
US	5.66	-1.32	5.93	-1.23
Japan	1.86	-0.49	2.49	-0.43
Germany	4.65	-1.10	5.40	-1.36

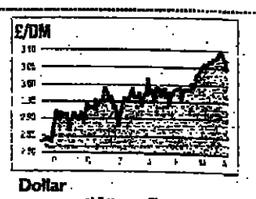
MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
MFI Furniture	95.00	9.00	10.47
Nycomed Amer	2285.00	185.00	9.01
Sun Life & Prov	556.00	28.00	5.43
BTR	226.25	10.75	5.50

Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
JJB Sports	535.00	-46.00	-7.90
Gaten Holdings	490.50	-29.50	-5.67
Bra Airways	614.50	-22.00	-3.46
Johnston Press	219.50	-7.00	-3.09

CURRENCIES





Pound

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6733	0.00c	1.6227
D-Mark	3.0445	+0.00pf	2.7980
Yen	215.94	-¥1.78	205.04
£ index	107.30	0.00	99.70

Dollar

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.5976	0.00p	0.6163
D-Mark	1.8201	- 0.00pf	1.7239
Yen	129.41	-¥0.75	126.57
$ index	109.30	0.00	105.90

OTHER INDICATORS

* at 5 pm	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil ($)	13.05	0.00	17.38
Gold ($)	310.55	2.60	346.25
Silver ($)	6.41	0.00	4.79

	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next figs
GDP	114.10	2.90	110.88	Feb
RPI	160.30	3.40	155.03	Feb
Base Rates		7.25	6.00	

www.bloomberg.com/uk source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Australia ($)	2.4528
Austria (schillings)	20.70
Belgium (francs)	60.84
Canada ($)	2.3216
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8581
Denmark (krone)	11.32
Finland (markka)	9.0213
France (francs)	9.8857
Germany (marks)	2.9604
Greece (drachma)	512.56
Hong Kong ($)	12.57
Ireland (punts)	1.1688
Israel (shekels)	5.6789
Italy (lira)	2926
Japan (yen)	217.79
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8391
Malta (lira)	0.6365
Netherlands (guilders)	3.3210
New Zealand ($)	2.9187
Norway (krone)	12.32
Portugal (escudos)	300.38
Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0952
Singapore ($)	2.5490
Spain (pesetas)	249.35
South Africa (rands)	8.0864
Sweden (krone)	12.86
Switzerland (francs)	2.4651
Thailand (bahts)	60.34
Turkey (lirasi)	399,811
USA ($)	1.6341

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

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Fiscal policy is coming back into fashion

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON ON HOW GOVERNMENTS WILL COPE WHEN THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK HOLDS THE MONETARY REINS

NOW THAT Europe's First Eleven are going ahead into Emu, Britain should not waste time complaining that the French are refusing to give us tickets for the Euro X (call it Euro-11) Council. The game now shifts from pre-entry criteria to post-entry policies. As the British will have to adopt these policies when they join within the next few years, they have a vital interest in shaping them.

Emu members will be swapping monetary policy for fiscal policy. The European Central Bank (ECB) will take over monetary policy, and governments will have to accept the interest rates it grinds out. National finance ministries will then have to use active fiscal policy to run their economies so as to complement European monetary policy.

This will be the opposite of what we have now. The Bank of England will have to merge into the ECB, which will target British inflation only as part of its wider European inflation objective. The European Council of Finance Ministers (Ecofin) will co-ordinate fiscal policies, but the Treasury will be responsible for seeing that the Budget is used to manage the economy.

Active fiscal policy has gone out of fashion. It was eclipsed by active monetary policy in the 1980s, and in the 1990s governments had to give priority to reducing deficits, rather than moving them up and down. Fiscal policy became a one-way street, leading to the paradise of balanced budgets – a fool's paradise for the UK in the late 1980s.

Emu provides the ideal conditions to say to fiscal policy: "Come back, all is forgiven." With interest rates given from Frankfurt, and exchange rates largely swept away, fiscal changes will no longer be swamped by interest and exchange rate changes.

An increase in the budget deficit will not make interest rates rise, and exchange rates go up or down (it could be either), provided that governments stay within the Emu framework.

The Maastricht Treaty says that governments should stay within budget deficits of 3 per cent of GDP, or else. The Stability Pact says that in order to ensure this they should aim at budget balance or small surplus. Even though all 11 have passed the 3 per cent test, many of them are still some way from balance.

Seven out of the 11, including the four biggest, are still forecast to have deficits of between 2 and 3 per cent in 1999, when the excessive deficit procedure punishing those over 3 per cent starts to operate. Finland and Ireland will be in surplus, as well as, ironically, three of the four non-joiners, Denmark and Sweden, soon to be joined by the UK.

It would be some help if governments had to aim at balance in a normal year, one where the budget deficit was not swollen by the cycle, as happens when output is below its potential trend. The recession on the Continent boosted budget deficits. The recovery has reduced them, but there is some way to go. The normal, or structural budget deficit of the EU as a whole is forecast at 1.7 per cent of GDP in 1999, compared with an actual deficit forecast of 2.0 per cent.

Most of the 11 still need to improve their structural deficits without aborting the recovery, and will be relying on the ECB to continue the low-interest monetary policy of the Bundesbank to help them do so. The reason for improving on 3 per cent deficits is to allow for fluctuations in GDP – "shocks" in the jargon of economics – which also affect the budget balance.

For the EU as a whole, a 1 per cent change in GDP produces a 0.5 per cent change in the budget balance. Taxes rise or fall with GDP, and benefits to the unemployed fall or rise. For the average country, if its GDP growth varies by 2 per cent each side of the potential output trend, its budget varies by 1 per cent. So a balanced budget, or even a deficit of 1 per cent, leaves some headroom within the 3 per cent limit.

Balances and stabilisers

	Budget balance 1999 OECD forecast	Sensitivity of budget to 1% GDP change as % of GDP
Austria	-2.5	0.5
Belgium	-2.1	0.6
Denmark	2.6	0.7
Finland	0.3	0.6
France	-2.7	0.5
Germany	-2.3	0.5
Greece	-4.5	0.4
Ireland	0.6	0.5
Italy	-2.7	0.5
Netherlands	-1.6	0.8
Portugal	-2.1	0.5
Spain	-2.2	0.6
Sweden	0.1	0.9
United Kingdom	-0.6	0.6
European Union	-2.0	0.5

The national response to growth shock varies with the share of tax in national income and the response ("elasticity") of tax revenue to income changes. It is thus above average in high-tax countries such as Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands, and in countries with a high tax elasticity such as the UK.

The response of the budget balance to growth shocks is an automatic stabiliser. If growth falls below trend, people pay less tax, and get benefit if they become unemployed. The former effect is about four times the size of the latter in the EU. Both the OECD and the European Commission have shown that these stabilisers offset a quarter of the growth shook in the first year, and a half in two years.

Countries with a high budget response to GDP changes can rely more than others on the stabilisers to bring them back on course. It used to be argued that Europe needed a federal budget on American lines to stabilise shocks. Many experts now argue that Europe's national stabilisers are more effective than America's federal ones.

The first rule for new national fiscal policies is not to interfere with the automatic stabilisers. Countries have in the past been all too prone to increase taxes in deficit, and cut them in surplus (the UK budgets in 1981 and 1989 are good examples). Masterly fiscal inactivity is better than pro-cyclical fiscal activism, which aggravates shocks. Benign neglect will be the correct reaction to deficits, particularly if there is some slack in the economy, and to surpluses, particularly if there is overheating.

The stabilisers will often need to be supplemented by active fiscal policy. Because national tax and expenditure patterns vary so widely, the subsidiarity principle indicates that each government should use its local knowledge to design tax and expenditure measures to suit the needs of its economy. Economic stabilisation cannot be the sole purpose of national budgets, but it will become the overarching principle within which other aims must fit.

Governments will have to study the effects of different kinds of tax and expenditure change on the economy more closely. To take a recent UK example, it is clear that a £5bn tax increase on pension funds has the same effect on the public finances as a £5bn increase in income tax, but the latter has a more powerful effect on demand and on GDP. Expenditure changes are generally more immediate in their effects on the economy than tax changes, and are in any case easier in a low tax-low spending economy such as the UK.

The fiscal new deal has attractive political spin-off. The Treasury has to be generous where people are suffering from a growth setback, and mean when they are enjoying a boom, and can afford to pay up. The UK, with a balanced budget, will be better placed than most. Joining Emu with a flying start could be the secret agenda of Gordon Brown's policy of sound finance.

Christopher Johnson is UK adviser to the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe, 39 Wood Lane, No 5UD

Travel offer could swell Thomson float

By Andrew Yates

THE FLOTATION of Thomson Travel Group, the UK's largest tour operator and owner of the Lunn Poly travel agents chain, has got off to a flying start. Hundreds of thousands of people are already believed to have registered an interest in buying shares, attracted by the offer of 10 per cent discounts on Thomson holidays around the world.

The popularity of the Thomson share issue, which will be one of the biggest companies to join the stock market this year, is likely to mean the offer will be oversubscribed and could raise the final value of the group much higher than original analysts' forecasts of £1.5bn.

"We are attracting the sort of interest you would normally associate with a privatisation," a spokesman for the group said yesterday.

Thomson's flotation could also pave the way for one of the biggest employee share ownership schemes ever seen.

Yesterday trade unions representing Thomson's 14,000 employees joined the stampede for shares. They are calling for workers to be allocated 10 per cent of the company. The proposals submitted to Thomson's management just before Easter include the award of £500 of free shares to every employee and a preferential allocation of stock in the flotation.

The employees' demands are being co-ordinated by Balpa, the pilots' union which has close ties with Britannia, Thomson's airline. Balpa has teamed up with a team of City advisers in an effort to force through its demands. A spokesman for the union said: "We are knocking very hard on the company's door to get recognition for those workers that have made Thomson what it is today. We are willing to start tough negotiations and if we don't get what we want there will be a great feeling of disappointment."

Thomson said yesterday it was considering the proposals from Balpa and was already compiling a generous offer for employees. "Paul Brett, Thomson's chief executive, is very keen for employees to participate in the offer. The package will be seen to be very attractive to employees."

However the group gave no details of any special deal for workers and refused to say if it would be offering employees free or discounted shares. It raises the possibility that Thomson could face an embarrassing row with workers on the eve of its stock market listing if it falls short of accepting proposals from the unions. Thomson plans to unveil its employee scheme formally next Monday.

Save Group takes on oil giants with petrol station post boxes

By Andrew Yates

SAVE GROUP, the UK's largest independent petrol retailer, has stepped up its campaign to take on the oil majors by launching a plan to install post boxes at every one of its 411 sites around the country over the next 18 months.

Save, which will be the first petrol retailer to offer a national network of post boxes, has teamed up with Postal Facilities, a private group based in Lancashire, to provide the new service. The boxes will be placed outside the forecourt building, allowing customers to post letters around the clock.

James Frost, chairman of Save, said: "Unlike Shell, Esso or BP we have always taken the view that petrol stations should have local community stores. Introducing post boxes goes hand in hand with that idea."

Mr Frost also launched a fresh attack on the Government for having done nothing to protect the thousands of small petrol retailers who have been driven out of business by a price war launched by the big oil groups.

He claims that investigation into the industry by the Office of Fair Trading has been delayed so long that there are now signs that this pricing pressure in the industry has begun to subside.

"The continual delay in the OFT has been unfortunate for the industry and forced many smaller petrol retailers into bankruptcy. The OFT investigation is now of questionable value to the taxpayer. By the time the report comes out it will be largely irrelevant."

the university for industry

Monday 20 April 1998 **Business Design Centre, London N1**

A one day national conference for policy makers in higher and further education to look at the implementation of the Government's proposals on the creation of a University for Industry. It will examine the role that further and higher education institutions can play by working together and with business at a local, regional and national level increasing the skills and knowledge of the workforce, as well as supporting research and development in industry and commerce.

Speakers Include:

Dr Kim Howells MP,
Parliamentary Under Secretary, DFEE

Rosie Boycott,
Editor, The Independent and The Independent on Sunday

David Brown,
Chairman, Motorola Ltd and Chair, UFI Design and Implementation Advisory Group

Josh Hillman,
Institute for Public Policy Research

Simon Sperryn,
Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Diana Warwick,
Chief Executive, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals

CVCP The voice of UK universities
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Old boys dent Bath title hopes

Rugby Union

By David Llewellyn

Richmond 32
Bath 14

RICHMOND emerged victorious from a match of incident and accident with their sixth home Allied Dunbar Premiership match. The match was riddled with penalties (the count had reached 40 by the end) and time-consuming lectures to various players by the referee, Ashley Rowden, as well as innumerable interventions by touch judges.

All of which conspired to prolong play and provoke frustration among players, fans and coaches alike. Appropriately enough, considering the season, there were two yellow cards, both to Richmond players, for Dan McFarland and lock Craig Gillies in what was at times a bad-tempered affair.

Even before the kick-off controversy was in the air, the Richmond chief executive, Tony Hallett, the former Rugby Football Union secretary, deciding to have a dart at the game's governing body, and singling out the RFU chairman, Cliff Brittle, for some vitriol.

In his programme notes Hallett wrote: "What a sorry humdrum mess the RFU's clumsy management of club affairs has brought us to. Here today is a match to savour yet Brittle says it has no value. He overlooks myopically the clear lineage that club has to international rugby... Seldom has an ostrich head been more firmly planted in the sand." He went on to urge everyone to ignore "the threats of insurrection and gunpowder plots made by the paranoid public relations company – formerly known as the RFU."

There was one Easter miracle over the weekend. Operation Land Reclamation, masterminded by groundsman Colin Hucklesby and his staff, transformed the Athletic Ground from a quagmire on Friday into a green and pleasant playing sward.

It was a shame that Jeremy Guscott was unable to indulge himself on such a good surface, having to pull out because of an ankle injury. It looked at first as if Bath would not miss the England centre as they dominated the first half an hour and eased into the lead.

Richmond by then had lost full-back Matt Pini, carried off after quarter of an hour following a bang on the head, but they fought back superbly. Richmond countered Iain Balshaw's well-taken 25th-minute try and Jon Callard's three first-half penalties with some hard stuff of their own.

By the interval they were in front: Earl Va'a, on for Pini, scooped up a fumbled pass and raced over. Then Scott Quinnell thundered over just on half-time and Adrian Davies' conversion added the psychological touch of a one-point lead.

The captain, Ben Clarke, one of five former Bath players in the Richmond team and a member of their superior back row, scored a fine try after being put away by the excellent Allan Bateman. That effort, plus a late penalty try and Davies' accurate boot, put the match beyond doubt as Bath's title challenge took a severe dent.

Richmond: Tries: Va'a, S Quinnell, Clarke, penalty try; **Conversions:** A Davies 3. **Penalties:** A Davies 2. Bath: **Tries:** Balshaw. **Penalties:** Callard 3.

Richmond: M Pini (E Va'a, 19); J Fallon, A Bateman, J Wright, S Brown, A Davies, A Moore; D McFarland (J Davies, 54), B Williams, D Crompton, C Quinnell (A Codling, 83), C Gillies, B Clarke (capt; C Palmer, 83), S Quinnell, A Vander.

Bath: I Balshaw; I Evans, M Perry, J Pritchard, D John; J Callard, A Nicol (capt; S Hateley, 81), V Ubogu, A Long (M Regan, 54), J Mallett (C Horsman, 81), M Haag, N Redman, R Earnshaw (R Bryan, 81), E Peters, N Thomas.

Referee: A Rowden (Thatcham).

ALAN WATKINS' COLUMN WILL APPEAR TOMORROW

Teddington cool under pressure

Hockey

By Bill Colwill
in 's Hertogenbosch

DEN BOSCH, recently crowned as Dutch champions for the first time in their history, yesterday secured the European Cup-Winners' Cup when they beat Ekaterinburg, from Russia, 4-0 before their own spectators on their first appearance in the competition.

But Teddington maintained England's positions in the A Division of the Cup event by beating Royal Oree 3-0 yesterday. Teddington adapted to the freezing conditions better than the Belgian side, but it was not until the 19th minute, when they were reduced to 10 men following the temporary suspension of Danny Haydon, that they struck – Jimmy Wallis getting the final touch from a free hit from the edge of the circle.

Christophe Moraux, Teddington's Belgium international, then drove 50 yards through his compatriots to set up Jon Hauck for Teddington's second goal 10 minutes into the second half. As Royal Oree pressed forward, with Teddington again reduced to 10 men, Nick Conway latched on to a casual clearance from the Oree sweeper to seal the game.

Teddington: J Ebsworth, B Garrard, S Nicklin, S Dawkins, A Colclough, D Haydon, J Wallis, J Laslett, P McGuire (capt), C Moraux, N Conway. **Substitutes used:** P Way, J Hauck.

Royal Oree: V Deneumostier, O Nailis, G Caselat, H Coelet, G Frankignoulle, Y-P Puissant, P Vanhemelen (capt), G Nicora, P Houssen, M Lefevre, H Votron. **Substitutes used:** P Moreau, V Magdelijns, L Ballon-Penn, J-F Sidler.

Umpires: K Peltzer (Ger), A Mankmatchev (Bela).

● In Brasschaat, Reading beat Dragons, the host club, 5-2, with two goals from Scott Ashdown, to take the B Division title and secure a place for Cannock, this season's English National League champions, in the A Division of the European Club Championship next season.

Slough lose final in shoot-out

By Peter Colwill

SLOUGH lost the final of the women's European Club Championship 3-2 on penalty strokes to the German side Russelsheimer in Southgate yesterday after the match ended 1-1.

Sue Knight produced a stunning save from Denise Klacker and Eva Hagenbaumer fired wide but it was not enough for Slough.

Although Jane Smith and Sarah Kelleher were successful, Jennifer Lutz saved efforts from Julia Robertson, Sue MacDonald and Karen Brown.

Brown was voted player of the tournament but that will be small consolation for her failure.

Slough's domination of the first half was almost absolute. Kelleher tied the Russelsheimer midfield in knots and MacDonald was at her tricky and penetrating best.

Kelleher gave Slough the lead in the 11th minute with the help of a deflection off a defender at a penalty corner.

Russelsheimer equalised on the stroke of half-time with their first attempt on goal when Britta Becker's penalty corner shot was touched in by Nadia Ritter.

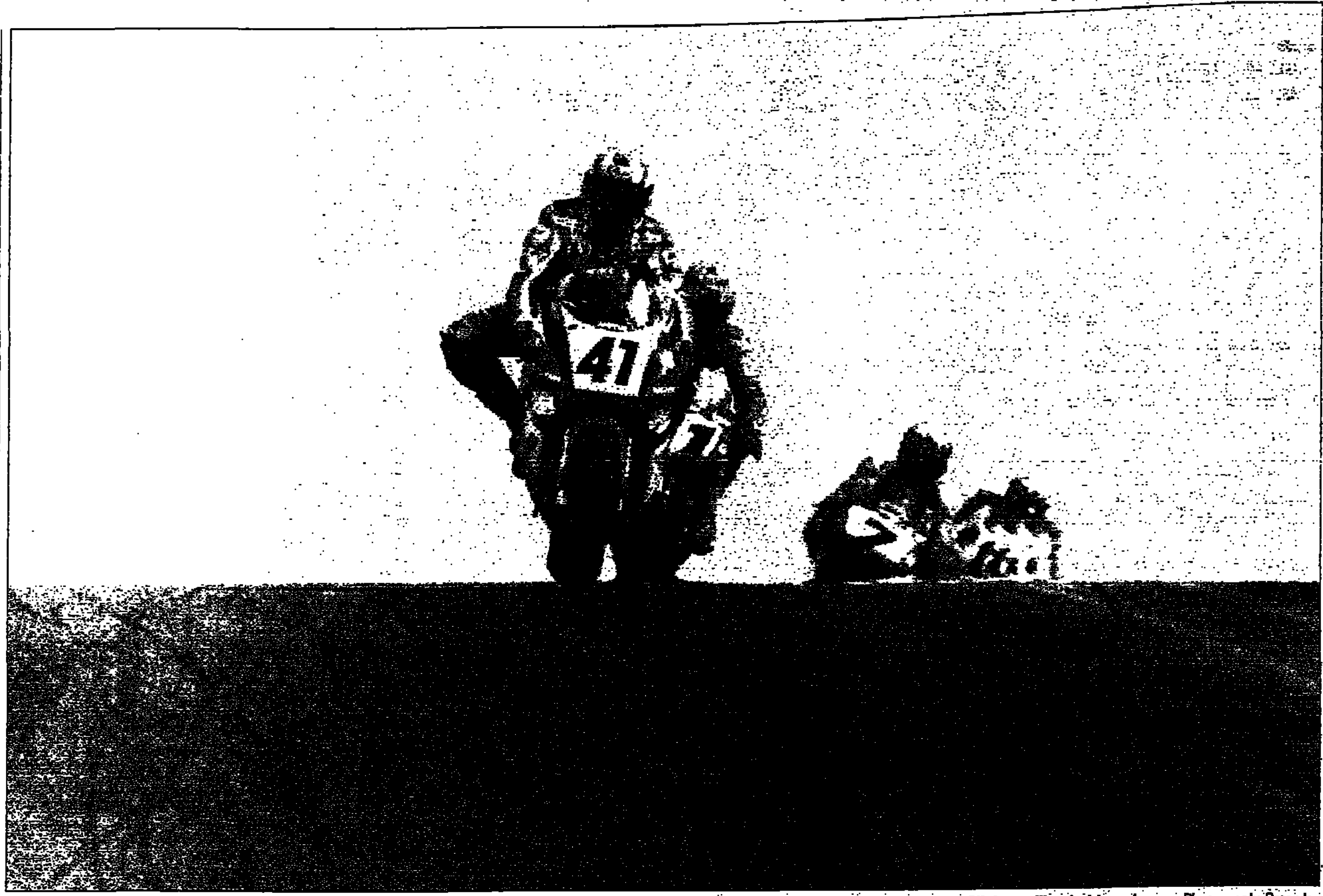
Urged on by Bertie Rauth, their voluble coach, Russelsheimer showed a little more adventure in the second half but the Slough defence was rarely stretched.

There was no joy for Edinburgh who lost the third place match 4-1 to HGC of the Netherlands.

TODAY'S NUMBER

13

The weeks Tiger Woods pent stayed golf's world No 1 before being replaced by the South African Ernie Elsin after his failure to repeat last year's success at the Masters. Sunday's winner, Mark O'Meara, has moved up to ninth place.



Browbeaten: Noriyuki Haga emerges first over a ridge at Donington yesterday with (from left) Troy Corser, Carl Fogarty and Aaron Slight trailing in his wake. Photograph: Peter Jay

Haga upstages Fogarty on home patch

Motorcycling

By Catherine Riley
in Donington

THIS was Donington Park and it was supposed to be Carl Fogarty's day but Noriyuki Haga, in his first season in World Superbikes, turned in a sensational display yesterday to ensure that he took the honours.

The Japanese rider, who like Fogarty had finished first and third at Phillip Island, Australia, in the first round, now leads the championship by 21 points from Troy Corser, with Fogarty third.

This season, with his *bête noir* John Kocinski having departed to try and challenge Michael Doohan's domination of the 500cc grand prix series, Fogarty has had to find a new adversary.

On Saturday, it seemed as if he had found one in his Ducati. A poor qualifying session saw him way down the field in 14th, a position he felt he could rectify in Sunday's superpole qualifying.

Introduced this year, superpole – a one-lap lottery to decide the top 16 grid positions – may be popular with television executives but the riders are not enamoured and were even less so after Sunday's débâcle.

Fogarty, third out, set provisional pole, but half-way through the event snow began to fall. Superpole was abandoned and the grid positions reverted to Saturday's qualifying times, with Troy Corser on pole.

The snow had given way to sun by yesterday and the Australian, back in Superbikes after a season in grand prix, led the pack going into the first corner but by the time they reached the double right-hander of Coppice, Haga had scythed his way into second place. The Japanese rider had said beforehand that his game plan was to follow Fogarty around the track but the roles were to be reversed.

The Blackburn rider, in typically obdurate fashion, began clawing his way back into contention: he was in ninth by the end of the second and seventh a lap later.

However, it was Haga who was providing the spectacle, taking the lead at Esses only for Corser to snatch it back at the bairpin. But the Australian had no answer two laps later when Haga turned on the power.

From then on, the Japanese was untroubled. Despite a fearful pounding in the early stages, his Dunlops held his increasingly twitchy Yamaha firm for a four-second victory over Corser.

The battle for third was decided on the last corner, Pierfrancesco Chili sneaking home ahead of Aaron Slight, with Fogarty a distant seventh.

There looked to be more misery for the home favourite at the start of the second race when he arrived on the grid gesticulating furiously at his fuel tank. He dismounted and aimed a kick at his wretched machine, but rather than start from the pit lane on the spare bike he decided to stick with the No 1 bike, its filler cap taped up.

The second race followed the pattern of the first, Corser leading then Haga materialising on his exhaust pipes before a breathtaking manoeuvre out of Coppice saw him slingshot past a bemused Corser.

Fogarty, meanwhile, was riding as if possessed, shaving a layer of paint off Gregorio Lavilla's Ducati as he moved up into sixth.

But just as the leading pair were threatening to turn the race into a procession Chris Walker's Kawasaki seized, leaving a 100-yard oil slick going into Goddards which brought down two other riders before the race was halted for 25 minutes.

Fogarty took advantage of the restart from race order on the 10th lap, moving straight into third behind Haga and Corser. Within a lap, the two leaders had traded places several times, Haga coming out on top. But midway through the restarted 15-lap race, Haga overreached himself coming out of Esses and dropped to fourth.

On the 10th lap Fogarty took advantage of Corser's run on to the kerb to snatch the lead. Haga saw his moment and passed Slight to move into third before slipping past Corser, finally getting his wish to follow Fogarty around the track.

With the two halves of the second race averaged, Haga again stood on the top step of the podium with Corser second and Fogarty a very welcome sight in third.

● James Toseland, the 17-year-old British rider making his debut in the Supersport World Series for Castrol Honda crashed out of the race on the second lap.

Results, standings, Sporting Digest, page 27

Exeter

HYPERION
2.25 Never In Debt 2.55 Sursum Corda 3.30 Edgemoor Prince 4.05 Brook Bee 4.35 Defendtherealm 5.05 Just Jasmine

GOING: Soft.
● Right-hand, undulating course. Stiff test of stamina.
● Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddock £11 Silver Ring £5. CAR PARK: £2 on rails; £2 in club; rest free.
● LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 57-259 (25.9%), Miss H Knight 34-113 (30.1%) P Hobbs 25-129 (19.4%), R Frost 17-141 (12.1%) R Alner 12-85 (14.1%)
● LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 27-127 (21.3%), M A Fitzgerald 10-87 (11.5%) D Salter 7-73 (10%), S Burrough 6-78 (7.7%)
● FAVOURITES: 271 wins from 522 races (38.4%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

2.25 RIVER BARLE CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 2m 2f
1 10333P CAWARRA BOY (17) E James 10 12 0 ... M Berry (3)
2 3-470 NEVER IN DEBT (31) A Hobbs 6 11 9 ... R Thornton
3 C216- ENCHANTED COTTAGE (356) (BF) K Endgewater 6 11 2 ... R Massey
4 1902.5 ASKING (10) (D) M Bradstock 6 10 10 ... R Studholme (3)
5 25PUFP SANDS POINT (37) D Peeman 5 10 5 ... A Bates B
6 21P13 CIRCLE OF MAGIC (31) M Pipe 4 10 5 ... G Supple B
7 -50625 TOP SKIPPER (106) (CD) V Greenway 6 10 0 ... X Aizpuru
8 P1/4FP LAYITONTHELINE (36) R Frost 9 10 0 ... T O'Connor (5)
9 6050 RUBY TWO SHOES (33) (BF) B R Millman 5 10 0 ... D Salter
– 9 declared –
Minimum, 10st. True weights: Layitontheline 9st 9lb, Ruby Two Shoes 9st 5lb
BETTING: 9-4 Never In Debt, 5-2 Circle of Magic, 5-1 Cawarra Boy, 7-1 Top Skipper, 8-1 Enchanted Cottage, 10-1 Asking, 20-1 others

2.55 GREIG MIDDLETON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds
1 401 FINAL HAND (40) (D) T Forster 6 11 6 ... C Maude
2 /34521 SOL MUSIC (10) J King 6 11 6 ... W Marston
3 /204-1 TAP SHOES (24) R Baker 8 11 6 ... V Slattery
4 3-1 SOLAZZI (19) R Frost 6 11 1 ... O Burrows (5)
5 42-434 COUNTRY KRIS (88) B Ryall 6 11 0 ... T Dascombe
6 3R3 EASTDON GOLD DUST (120) A Hobbs 5 11 0 ... T J Murphy
7 0.05P LOUIS RENEE (18) W McKenzie-Coles 7 11 0 ... G Supple (5)
8 U4331 ON ALERT (747) V Greenway 11 11 0 ... Mr J Tizzard (5)
9 0 PABLO'S JET (21) P Farrell 5 11 0 ... R Greene
10 080-0P RED PHANTOM (53) P Rodford 6 11 0 ... S Burrough
11 054 SANDORAN (36) M Hill 5 11 0 ... Mr R Wakley (3)
12 F32-20 SANTELLA CAPE (18) N Hawke 5 11 0 ... M Richards
13 R11P6 STEPASIDEBOY (74) R Curtis 8 11 0 ... J Leach
14 342F22 SURSUM CORDA (31) (BF) T Forster 7 11 0 ... R Thornton
15 PP- BONNY BAROSY (323) Miss A Howard-Chappell 7 10 9 ... —
16 GAY ARCTIC P Hobbs 5 10 9 ... Mr R Widger (7)
17 0/ SELECTIVE ROSE (708) J Smith 7 10 9 ... C Llewellyn
– 17 declared –
BETTING: 7-4 Sursum Corda, 5-1 Sol Music, 6-1 Final Hand, 7-1 Solazzi, 10-1 Country Kris, 12-1 Santella Cape, Gay Arctic, 14-1 others

3.30 DIAMOND EDGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds
1 131FP EDGEMOOR PRINCE (27) (C) P Hobbs 7 12 0 ... T J Murphy
2 3-3061 GARETHSON (35) (CD) Miss H Knight 7 11 0 ... J Culloty
3 U22336 HAWAIIAN YOUTH (18) (D) G McCourt 10 10 12 ... R Hobson (7)
4 -211P2 PENNYMOOR PRINCE (20) (C) (BF) R Frost 9 10 10 ... J Frost
5 11251 CAPENWRAY (20) (CD) J King 9 10 10 ... W Marston
6 634342 KOO'S PROMISE (19) C Popham 7 10 0 ... R Farrant
– 6 declared –
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Koo's Promise 9st 6lb.
BETTING: 5-2 Pennymoor Prince, 7-2 Garethson, Capenwray, 4-1 Edgemoor Prince, 7-1 Hawaiian Youth, 12-1 Koo's Promise

4.05 TURF NEWSPAPERS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (E) £4,500 2m 7f 110yds
1 24438U TEXAN BABY (10) N Twiston-Davies 9 11 10 ... C Llewellyn
2 F32123 SAXON DUKE (20) (D) (BF) P Hobbs 7 11 6 ... Mr R Widger (7)
3 P3F-3P TOM'S GEMINI STAR (6) O Carter 10 11 4 ... Mr R Wakley (3)
4 -4F332 BAGALINO (20) (D) (BF) T Forster 8 11 1 ... R Thornton
5 -UPP5P GREY GORDEN (8) (D) R Curtis 10 10 10 ... J Leach
6 34P531 RAGTIME BOY (20) (CD) C Barwell 10 10 8 ... J Lawrence
7 331-60 WOT NO GIN (141) A J Wilson 9 10 7 ... J R Kavanagh
8 10F40 THE HATCHER (20) N Hawke 10 10 6 ... R Greene
9 0-5404 CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN (34) R Brotherton 10 10 2 ... S Curran
10 00UFF5 NODDADANTE (20) N R Mitchell 8 10 0 ... Mr C Rae
11 P-RF32 BROOK BEE (24) N Gaselee 8 10 0 ... D Leahy
– 11 declared –
Minimum: 10st. True h'cap weights: Noddadante 9st 9lb, Brook Bee 9st 7lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Bagalino, 7-2 Saxon Duke, Ragtime Boy, 11-2 Texan Baby, 10-1 Brook Bee, 16-1 Grey Gorden, Wot No Gin, 20-1 others

4.35 GREIG MIDDLETON EXETER HANDICAP HURDLE (D) £4,000 added 2m 3f 110yds
1 61R046 ANGELO'S DOUBLE (21) (D) R Buckler 10 11 10 ... B Powell
2 33/663 FILL THE BILL (12) M Pipe 6 11 4 ... J Lower
3 010/ COUNTRYMASTER (822) (D) Mrs S Williams 9 11 2 ... B Fenton
4 120-4 RAQIB (21) P Richens 7 10 13 ... S Fox
5 -430U1 DEFENDTHEREALM (27) R Frost 7 10 10 ... J Frost
6 14306 HIGH LOW (12) (D) I Jones 10 10 6 ... Miss E J Jones
7 2P3003 DRUM BATTLE (8) W G M Turner 6 10 3 ... J R Kavanagh
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 9-4 Defendtherealm, 7-2 Fill The Bill, 5-1 High Low, 6-1 Raqib, 13-2 Angelo's Double, 8-1 Drum Battle, 14-1 Countrymaster

5.05 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 2f
1 330-61 MERAWANG (29) M Pipe 5 12 0 ... C Maude B
2 2P43 KHAYAL (29) P Murphy 4 11 3 ... R Farrant
3 668620 SALLY SCALLY (17) A Hobbs 6 11 0 ... O Burrows (5)
4 01F433 JUST JASMINE (27) K Bishop 6 11 0 ... R Greene
5 643522 HEART (43) Miss H Knight 5 10 13 ... J Power (7)
6 35400 NOBLE ATHLETE (32) Mrs J Pitman 6 10 10 ... D Leahy
7 0-0556 WHERE'S MIRANDA (40) G McCourt 6 10 5 ... R Hobson (7)
8 43EF62 SUNRISE SPECIAL (21) P Rodford 5 10 4 ... S Burrough
9 035064 PORLOCK CASTLE (8) P Richens 5 10 2 ... B Fenton
10 -000P3 REMEMBER STAR (27) Miss K Whitehouse 5 10 0 ... S Graham (7)
11 550P0P AAVASAKSA (33) A Newcombe 5 10 0 ... R Thornton
– 11 declared –
Minimum: 10st. True weights: Remember Star 9st 9lb, Aavasaksa 8st 9lb.
BETTING: 4-1 Heart, 5-1 Just Jasmine, 6-1 Merawang, Porlock Castle, 7-1 Sally Scally, 8-1 Khayal, Noble Athlete, 10-1 others

Uttoxeter

HYPERION
2.15 Drama King 2.45 Lord Relic 3.20 Coast Along 3.55 Barnageera Boy 4.25 House Of Dreams 4.55 Bold Dolphin 5.30 Crookedstone

GOING: Soft.
●Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yds.
●Course is SE of town near B5017. Uttoxeter station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £15 OAPs £12. Tattersalls £10 (OAPs £7). Centre of course £5. CAR PARK: Free.
●LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 38-135 (28.1%), D Nicholson 22-106 (20.8%); K Bailey 22-117 (18.8%); N Twiston-Davies 16-103 (15.4%)
● LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 25-98 (25.5%); N Williamson 21-132 (15.9%); M A Fitzgerald 11-87 (12.6%), C Llewellyn 10-76 (13.2%)
●FAVOURITES: 260-639 (27.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Veryvel (visored, 3.20)

2.15 MORNFLAKE OATS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m
1 3-FP62 PENROSE LAD (17) P P Webber 8 11 10 ... A Thornton
2 F51 DRAMA KING (F10) B Llewellyn 6 11 ... Michael Brennan (3)
3 0-5 SKELTON SOVEREIGN (20) (D) R Hollinshead 4 11 5 ... Gary Lyons
4 TF4-22 SILENT VALLEY (F31) (CD) Miss L Siddall 4 10 4 ... T Siddall (7) V
5 306-5 APRIL SEVENTH (38) L Naylor 7 10 4 ... H Williamson
6 0-4062 MICHIGAN BLUE (21) W Jenks 5 10 0 ... S Wynne
– 6 declared –
Minimum weight 10st. True handicap weight: Michigan Blue 9st 4lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Penrose Lad, 7-2 Silent Valley, 4-1 Skelton Sovereign, 5-1 Drama King, 7-1 April Seventh, 8-1 Michigan Blue

2.45 MOUNT ARGUS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 7f
1 4-22U LORD RELIC (11) (C) S Brookshaw 12 12 10 ... Mr S Durack (5)
2 2-342F ANDERMATT (11) (CD) J Mackie 11 12 3 ... Mr J R Cornwall (7)
3 -221U DOUBLE COLLECT (11) Mrs M D Rebori 12 12 3 ... Mr S Andrews (5)
4 600U4 GIORDANO (47) A Deakin 8 12 3 ... Mr F Hotsby (7)
5 1456PP KING OF SHADOWS (20) (C) Miss C Carden 11 12 3 ... Mr J R Barlow (7)
6 52-U4R ROYAL SEGOS (P16) Miss S Baxter 11 12 3 ... Mr A Sansome (5)
7 2E-644 TARA BOY (P17) (C) R Teague 13 12 3 ... Mr R Cambray (7)
8 0-2064 THE BOILER WHITE (P18) (C) (D) E Froggatt 10 12 3 ... Miss J Froggatt (7)
9 3/U1-P RUALMIT (P23) T Woosnall 9 11 12 ... Mr S Swiers
10 P-22P1 SECRET TRUTH (P17) A J Martin 9 11 12 ... Mr A Martin (7)
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 4-5 Lord Relic, 6-1 Secret Truth, 7-1 Double Collect, 8-1 Andermatt, 14-1 The Boiler White, 16-1 Giordano, Royal Segos, 25-1 others

3.20 PETER J DOUGLAS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 2m 4f 110yds
1 0-UP05 VERYVEL (CZE) (27) J Neville 7 11 11 ... N Williamson V
2 5P-54 TEST MATCH (56) (C) (D) W Clay 11 11 9 ... G Tormey
3 124500 APACHE PARK (10) (CD) A Streeter 5 11 6 ... T Eley
4 553-0 COAST ALONG (33) (C) (D) P Bevan 6 11 6 ... W Worthington
5 -640R0 STAR PERFORMER (8) F Jordan 7 11 4 ... D Byrne
6 2001-5 GUNMAKER (F431) (C) (D) B Llewellyn 9 11 3 ... Mr J L Llewellyn
7 61F03- PRECIPICE RUN (335) (D) J Birkett 13 11 3 ... L O'Hara
8 4P.500 DAMIER BLANC (33) (D) M Pipe 9 11 2 ... J Evans B
9 0250/3 CAPTAIN TANCRED (88) J Birkett 10 10 13 ... M Moloney
10 402250 EDWARD SEYMOUR (27) (CD) W Jenks 11 10 11 ... A Thornton
11 42P-02 LOOK IN THE MIRROR (12) N Twiston-Davies 7 10 9 ... L Suthern (7)
12 -04360 GAY RUFFIAN (27) (CD) Miss C Dyson 12 10 9 ... Miss C Dyson
13 3011-0 STRIKE-A-POSE (17) (CD) B Llewellyn 8 10 8 ... Michael Brennan (3)
14 30P/1- ROSIE (661) (D) T Needham 8 10 7 ... Mr S Durack (5)
15 250050 BALMORAL PRINCESS (17) D McCain 5 10 3 ... S Wynne B
16 2-0600 RIVA'S BOOK (17) Mrs L Williamson 7 10 3 ... S McNeill
17 00-P1 TUDOR FALCON (109) P Bradley 5 10 2 ... D Parker B
18 630-PP TREAD THE BOARDS (30) B Llewellyn 7 10 2 ... S Kelly (7)
– 18 declared –
BETTING: 5-1 Tudor Falcon, 6-1 Look In The Mirror, 7-1 Test Match, 8-1 Captain Tancred, 10-1 Apache Park, Damier Blanc, Edward Seymour, Rosie, 12-1 others

3.55 DODSON & HORRELL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f
1 -11F51 SPARKLING CONE (31) (D) Miss V Williams 9 11 10 ... N Williamson
2 23/230 BARNAGEERA BOY (26) W Jenks 9 11 8 ... A Maguire
3 33123- MR CONDUCTOR (349) (D) (BF) R Alner 7 11 1 ... A Thornton
4 -P5224 BRIGHTER SHADE (43) (D) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 0 ... P Niven
– 4 declared –
BETTING: 6-4 Sparkling Cone, 9-4 Barnageera Boy, 3-1 Brighter Shade, 7-1 Mr Conductor

4.25 HMC CUTHBERTS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added 2m
1 15100 PUNKAH (F24) (D) G McCourt 5 11 10 ... D J Moffatt
2 222105 HOUSE OF DREAMS (13) (D) G M Moore 6 11 8 ... A Maguire
3 -31040 INDIAN JOCKEY (26) (D) M Pipe 6 11 8 ... N Williamson
4 10250P SAINT CIEL (60) (CD) F Jordan 10 11 4 ... A Thornton
5 2215/1 BRIGHT NOVEMBER (10) D Gandolfo 7 10 1 ... S Wynne
– 5 declared –
BETTING: 9-4 Bright November, 5-2 House Of Dreams, 3-1 Indian Jockey, 6-1 Punkah, 8-1 Saint Ciel

4.55 MURRAY VERNON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 5f
1 0F5/21 BOLD DOLPHIN (38) T Forster 8 11 8 ... A Thornton
2 -62F10 TROUVAILLE (31) (D) A Turnell 7 11 8 ... N Griffiths (7)
3 0022P- JOLLY BOAT (366) (BF) F Jordan 11 11 2 ... N Williamson
4 TWELVE BORE S Brookshaw 7 11 2 ... S Wynne
5 1323/P STORMY WITNESS (28) I Williams 10 10 11 ... G Tormey
– 5 declared –
BETTING: 1-2 Bold Dolphin, 4-1 Trouvaille, 8-1 Twelve Bore, 12-1 Jolly Boat, 16-1 Stormy Witness

5.30 MAGNET APPEAL MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m
1 00 C D BOY (117) G McCourt 5 11 6 ... D J Moffatt
2 3-14 CROOKEDSTONE (17) (D) K Bailey 5 11 6 ... N Williamson
3 00F HIGHFIELD GENT (21) M Wilkinson 5 11 6 ... A Thornton
4 F-4PP0 KALADROSS (88) W Jenks 7 11 6 ... Gary Lyons
5 0 MAURANGI (24) B Murray 7 11 6 ... Mr S Durack (5)
6 /F00P- NINE PIPES (332) J Birkett 7 11 6 ... L O'Hara
7 3-0 TAFZAL (66) P Wegmann 7 11 6 ... S Wynne
8 TIME FOR ACTION (F171) C Mann 6 11 6 ... J Magee (3)
9 P TYCOON TED (126) W Brisbourne 5 11 6 ... J Goldstein (5)
10 0050 FUNKY (82) F Jordan 5 11 1 ... D Byrne
11 0-6056 MOLLIE SILVERS (6) J K Cresswell 6 11 1 ... D Gallagher
12 PENAIR P Johnson 8 11 1 ... M Sherrad
13 06 CARTOUCHE (17) M Wilkinson 4 11 0 ... L Harvey
14 3 TERAAB (241) J Birkett 4 11 0 ... M Moloney
– 14 declared –
BETTING: 11-10 Crookedstone, 5-2 Time For Action, 10-1 Cartouche, 12-1 Teraab, 16-1 C D Boy, 20-1 Highfield Gent, 25-1 Kaladross, Maurangi, Tafzal, Funky, Mollie Silvers, 33-1 others

Wetherby

HYPERION
2.10 Supreme Genotin 2.40 Prince Of Saints 3.15 Whip Hand 3.50 Share Options 4.20 Last Option 4.50 George Dillingham

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).
●Left-hand oval circuit. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphill.
●Course is north east of town on B1224 near junction of A58 and A1. ADMISSION: Club £13. Tattersalls £9. Course £2 (OAPs £2). Accompanied under-16s free. CAR PARK: Free.
●LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 45-197 (22.8%), G Richards 24-111 (21.6%), T Easterby 23-95 (24.2%), D Nicholson 19-75 (25.3%)
● LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 43-174 (24.7%), L Wyer 42-166 (25.3%), A Dobbin 20-113 (18.5%), R Guest 17-53 (30.5%)
● FAVOURITES: 205 wins from 460 races (42.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wellington Street (2.10), Claireswan (3.15), Hobnobber (4.20). Ham N'Eggs (visored, 2.40)

2.10 MOORSIDE LAND ROVERS NOVICE HURDLE (D) £3,800 2m 4f 110yds
1 0C HENBURY (27) P Beaumont 5 11 3 ... R Supple
2 LET'S GO Mrs E Heath 5 11 0 ... J Supple
3 56 MR WALT (33) J M Jefferson 5 11 0 ... L Wyer
4 F60354 SOUTHERN CROSS (24) M W Easterby 8 11 0 ... A Dobbin B
5 0U-422 SUPREME GENOTIN (21) J Old 9 11 0 ... M A Fitzgerald
6 020P WELLINGTON STREET (34) T Easterby 5 11 0 ... R Garritty B
7 PAT'S SPLENDOUR (F306) Mrs E Heath 7 10 9 Mrs F Needham
8 OCEAN BREEZE (F230) J Wainwright 4 10 7 ... P Midgley (3)
– 8 declared –
BETTING: 8-11 Supreme Genotin, 4-1 Southern Cross, 7-1 Wellington Street, 10-1 Henbury, 12-1 Mr Walt, 25-1 Let's Go, Pat's Splendour, Ocean Breeze

2.40 CROSSLEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,300 added 2m
1 14F2F REGAL ROMPER (102) (CD) Mrs S Smith 10 11 10 ... R Guest
2 5C421F JUST BRUCE (25) (D) Mrs E Heath 9 11 6 ... R Supple
3 -43P04 BOLD BOSS (31) (D) G M Moore 9 11 1 ... J Callaghan
4 13P31 PRINCE OF SAINTS (42) (D) M Hammond 7 11 1 ... R Garritty
5 4022-4 HAM N'EGGS (26) (CD) (BF) M Hammond 7 10 12 ... Mr C Bonner (3) V
6 331U55 MINSTER GLORY (32) (CD) M W Easterby 7 10 4 ... A Dobbin
7 -23252 SIX CLERKS (16) (D) J FitzGerald 5 10 0 ... L Wyer
8 P3243 MOSS PAGEANT (24) (D) F Watson 8 10 0 ... B Storey
– 8 declared –
Minimum, 10st. True h'cap weights: Six Clerks 9st 11lb, Moss Pageant 9st 11lb.
BETTING: 7-2 Prince Of Saints, 9-2 Six Clerks, 6-1 Ham N'Eggs, Moss Pageant, 7-1 Regal Romper, 8-1 Just Bruce, Minster Glory, 9-1 Bold Boss

3.15 MONTAGU HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
1 212606 WHIP HAND (11) (C) J FitzGerald 7 12 0 ... M A Fitzgerald
2 1052-3 FIRED EARTH (145) (D) J Fanshawe 10 11 12 ... C Bolger (7)
3 15013 FEN TERRIER (11) (D) F Murtagh 6 11 7 ... A Dobbin
4 P34430 EXECUTIVE DESIGN (13) Mrs M Reveley 6 11 4 ... G Lee
5 615000 CLAIRESWAN (13) M Tompkins 6 10 6 ... B Storey B
6 22/14 TEN MILE HILL (17) Mrs S Smith 7 10 3 ... R Guest
– 6 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Executive Design, 7-2 Fen Terrier, 4-1 Fired Earth, 9-2 Whip Hand, 5-1 Ten Mile Hill, 8-1 Claireswan

3.50 WETHERBY LONG-DISTANCE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (C) £7,000 3m 5f
1 PP-P12 SHARE OPTIONS (46) (C) T Easterby 7 11 10 ... L Wyer
2 -31621 SIRERIC (26) S Bell 6 11 4 ... K Johnson
3 /2-422 GRATE DEEL (39) P Beaumont 8 10 13 ... B Grattan (5)
4 -1533 MISTER BLAKE (21) R Lee 8 10 13 ... M A Fitzgerald
5 FP-36 NOOSA SOUND (14) L Lungo 8 10 6 ... R Supple
6 0P-0U ETAT MAJOR (24) Mrs S Bramall 10 0 ... B Storey
– 6 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Share Options, 7-2 Sireric, Grate Deel, 9-2 Mister Blake, 5-1 Noosa Sound, 16-1 Etat Major

4.20 HOWARD BROWN MEMORIAL NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (H) £1,500 3m 1f
1 52/1P AITCH-A (P38) N Wilson 7 11 12 ... Mr N Wilson (5)
2 28-P1 HOBNOBBER (P9) J Docker 11 11 12 ... Mr J Docker (7) B
3 F1U-11 LAST OPTION (P17) R Tate 8 11 12 ... Mrs F Needham (7)
4 BF655/ SCOTCH 'N IRISH (987) Miss P Fitton 9 11 12 ... Mr C Mulhall (7)
5 -1B3/4 HILTONSTOWN LASS (12) (D) T Walford 8 11 7 ... Mr R Walford (7)
– 5 declared –
BETTING: 11-8 Last Option, 6-4 Hiltonstown Lass, 9-2 Hobnobber, 12-1 Aitch-a, 25-1 Scotch 'N Irish

4.50 SANDBECK MOTORS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,800 added 2m
1 3U65FP NATIVE MISSION (11) (CD) J FitzGerald 11 12 0 ... M A Fitzgerald
2 2310 LEGAL RIGHT (28) (D) J J O'Neill 5 11 12 ... R McGrath (3)
3 6-P133 MONICA'S CHOICE (31) (D BF) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 4 ... G Lee
4 U555F4 DURANO (11) (CD) T Easterby 7 11 2 ... L Wyer
5 -20056 SARMATIAN (55) (D) F Murtagh 7 10 13 ... A Dobbin
6 U6034U TEEJAY'N'AITCH (104) (CD) J Goldie 6 10 10 ... B Clarke (7)
7 322216 FASSAN (15) (D) (BF) M Hammond 6 10 9 ... R Garritty
8 /242/1 NESSUN DORO (33) (D) S Mellor 6 10 9 ... C Webb (3)
9 021421 GEORGE DILLINGHAM (38) (D) D Smith 8 10 8 ... R Guest
10 41040 KEY GRIP (10) (CD) Mrs S Smith 7 10 0 ... G F Ryan (5)
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 4-1 George Dillingham, 9-2 Nessun Doro, 6-1 Legal Right, Monica's Choice, 13-2 Fassan, 7-1 Key Grip, 8-1 Durano, 12-1 others

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Exclusive rumours put to test

By John Cobb

THE BAR-ROOM talk of winter stops here. As if to prove beyond doubt the old cliché that the Flat season does not begin until the start of the Craven meeting, Newmarket today throws open its doors and parades some of the silkiest thoroughbred talent in the country.

It is a card that puts flesh on the dreams of the Flat fanatics for whom the hairy old jumpers just will not do. All the top trainers are back on track – Cecil, Stoute, Gosden, Loder, Tregoning, the new boy taking over from Hern; there is a prospective champion sprinter on view in Danetime and three maiden races packed with newcomers that only gnarled, frozen work-watchers would recognise.

Best of all there is the Nell Gwyn Stakes, along with Friday's Fred Darling Stakes one of two trials for the 1,000 Guineas that regularly have bearing on the Classic itself – even if the Guineas has not gone to the Nell Gwyn winner since Oh So Sharp triumphed in 1985.

This is a proper Nell Gwyn though, one that those gallops touts will be watching closely as two of the most talked about horses in town put their substantial reputations to the test. Exclusive and Jibe have encouraged more whispered conversations than any other fillies on Newmarket Heath this spring. Now they cross from the gallops, where all the exercise is arranged to condition and encourage them to the racecourse where every animal will be striving to topple them and they will be asked to give their all.

Yesterday there were still punters anxious to get on for the Guineas before the racecourse revelations exposed true ability. Jibe was the one supported with William Hill from 10-1 to 8-1 for the 1,000, but Exclusive, Entrepreneur's half-sister, has had plenty of backing too and is down to 6-1 second favouritism with Ladbrokes for the Classic on 3 May.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Exclusive
(Newmarket 3.10)
NB: Scent Of Success
(Newmarket 3.45)

Surprisingly, only Ladbrokes yesterday priced up the Nell Gwyn and make Exclusive their 11-8 favourite, with Jibe on 9-4 and Ashraakat, who herself headed the Guineas market briefly last summer, on 4-1.

The jumpers have not gone away entirely, though, and the bookmakers also bet on Saturday's Scottish National.

Scottish National

Horse	C	H	L	T
Dom Samourai	8-1	8-1	8-1	7-1
Bravy Highlander	9-1	8-1	8-1	10-1
Cariboo Gold	10-1	10-1	8-1	8-1
Kamikaze	10-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Ottowa	10-1	9-1	9-1	8-1
Samlee	8-1	9-1	10-1	9-1
Baronet	12-1	12-1	11-1	12-1
Belmont King	12-1	10-1	11-1	10-1
Nahthen Lad	12-1	12-1	10-1	10-1

28 declared

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4
C - Coral, H - William Hill, L - Ladbrokes, T - Tote

Bobbyjo and Paul Carberry (right) challenge Papillon and Ruby Walsh at the last in the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse Photograph: Caroline Norris

The family comes first and second in Irish National

THE CARBERRYS beat the Walsh family in what amounted to an almost private duel for the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse yesterday. Ridden by Paul Carberry and trained by his father, Tommy, who had himself won the race on Brown Lad in 1975 and 1976, Bobbyjo got up in the final strides to deny the top-weight, Papillon, by half a length. The runner-up is trained by Ted Walsh and was ridden by his teenage son Ruby.

Sharpened by a couple of runs at inadequate trips over hurdles, Bobbyjo was backed from 16-1 to half those odds for the £130,000 prize and despite some uninspiring form figures this was a popular victory. The Carberrys are based barely three miles from Fairyhouse and a crack at the National had been on the cards since Bobbyjo had won there earlier in the season.

Carberry snr explained: "When he won the Porterstown Chase here at the end of November and we realised there was a £50,000 bonus if we won the National too, I decided to train him especially for today."

Behind the first two home, the British raiders Call It A Day and Fud Of Oats stayed on dourly for the places in third and fourth respectively.

Top event rider killed in fall

DAVID FOSTER, Ireland's leading event rider, was killed in a fall at a show near his home in Co Meath yesterday. Foster, 43, a father of three who represented Ireland at Olympic level, suffered massive head and chest injuries when his mount turned over on top of him at the water jump, the sixth obstacle.

NEWMARKET

2.05: Capri was well supported when beaten a head on his debut at Nottingham in October and seems sure to be strongly backed again today. Better value, though, could rest with **BANKER DWERRY**, from the Sean Woods stable that has made such a sparkling start to the new Flat turf season. This colt was an unconsidered 33-1 shot when running on into second place, half a length behind the Henry Cecil-trained Baffin Bay, over 1m 2f at Leicester in October. He is bred to appreciate this longer trip.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

2.35: Tomba is certainly a sprinter to be feared when the going is soft, but it could be that the going will dry out a little too much for Brian Meehan's colt. Danetime has the best overall form in this event and must take all the beating if Neville Callaghan's yard hits form. A fitness advantage is likely to be held, though, by the four runners to have raced already this season. Of these, **MONAASSIB** has the best credentials and appears as good as ever at the age of seven.

□□□

3.10: John Dunlop's charges have been frequent visitors to the winners' enclosure in the past week or two and his **ASHRAAKAT** is interesting back at seven furlongs. She failed to impress in the Prix Marcel Boussac over a mile at Longchamp in October. Over 7f here in August she looked to have plenty of class.

3.45: Michael Bell's stable has been supplying a steady flow of winners lately and **NEXT ROUND** has a solid chance. This filly was fifth of six runners in the Listed race won by Woodlands Melody at Sandown last season, but was beaten less than five lengths. On that display, she looks well in here. **Scent Of Success** hails from a top yard. She faded into fourth place, five lengths behind the winner, Smart Squall, in an Ascot handicap in October, but the ground was heavy that day and is a big threat today. Sean Woods's **Contrary Mary** could go well at long odds.

Newmarket – 2.35

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Danetime	7-4	9-4	13-8	15-8	2-1
Monaassib	5-1	5-1	11-2	9-2	9-2
My Best Valentine	8-1	7-1	7-1	8-1	8-1
Proud Native	8-1	5-1	7-1	8-1	6-1
Tomba	8-1	7-1	7-1	8-1	8-1
Cretan Gift	9-1	10-1	10-1	9-1	10-1
Dashing Blue	9-1	9-1	10-1	8-1	9-1
Tedburrow	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Wind Cheetah	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
March Star	33-1	33-1	33-1	25-1	33-1
The Puzzler	25-1	25-1	33-1	25-1	25-1

Each way, a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3
C Coral, H Wm Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

Newmarket

HYPERION
2.05 Banker Dwerry
2.35 Monaassib
3.10 Ashraakat
3.45 NEXT ROUND (nap)
4.15 Premium Rate
4.45 Daring Derek
5.20 Pantar (nb)

GOING: Good to Soft.
STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
● Right-hand course with 1m 2f straight.
● Course is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations.
ADMISSION: Club £16 (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Grandstand & Paddock £12 (16 to 25-year-olds £7); Family Enclosure £3. **CAR PARK:** Members £1; remainder free.
● **LEADING TRAINERS:** H Cecil — 38 winners from 150 runners (success rate 25.3%); J Gosden 22 from 152 (14.5%); B Hills 21 from 194 (10.8%); L Cumani 18 from 139 (12.9%).
● **LEADING JOCKEYS:** Pat Eddery 45 wins from 256 rides (success rate 17.6%); R Hills 25 from 177 (14.1%); J Reid 21 from 245 (8.6%); T Quinn 19 from 248 (7.7%).
● **FAVOURITES:** 198 wins in 589 races (33.6%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Love Academy (3.45).
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER: Jacmar (3.45) has been sent 380 miles.

2.05 APRIL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 added 3YO 1m 4f C4

RATINGS
1 ABULJOOD (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hanbury 9 0 ... R Hills 3 —
2 62- BANKER DWERRY (FR) (168) (Dr F S B Chao) S Woods 9 0 ... Pat Eddery 4 81
3 BERSAGLIO (Lord Howard de Walden) W Jarvis 9 0 ... J Quinn 10 —
4 2- CAPRI (168) (BF) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) H Cecil 9 0 ... K Fallon 7 73
5 EMINENCE GRISE (Wafic Said) H Cecil 9 0 ... A McGlone 1 —
6 GRIMSHAW (USA) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) H Cecil 9 0 ... J Lowe 2 —
7 00- HIGH AND MIGHTY (158) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9 0 ... L Dettori 8 74
8 46- JOINT REGENT (USA) (172) (BF) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9 0 ... D Holland 9 80
9 LAURENTIDE (USA) (Mrs V Kraft Payson) H Cecil 9 0 ... W Ryan 6 —
10 SAINTLY THOUGHTS (USA) (Khalifa Dasmal) G Lewis 9 0 ... Paul Eddery 5 —
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Capri, 5-2 Banker Dwerry, 5-1 High And Mighty, 7-1 Joint Regent, 12-1 Abuljood, Laurentide, 14-1 Eminence Grise, 20-1 Grimshaw, Saintly Thoughts, 25-1 others
1997: Street General 9 0 K Fallon 6-4 fav (H Cecil) drawn (5) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE
Henry Cecil has still to strike after four runners but that shouldn't stop CAPRI in this week race. A Generous colt sure to relish the trip after his backend introduction at Nottingham (1m) when pipped by Eliza Acton, he is going to take the beating over this trip. Cecil also runs three newcomers, best of them being the Sadler's Wells colt Eminence Grise. Pat Eddery on Banker Dwerry is interesting. Beaten half-a-length by Cecil's Baffin Bay at Leicester on his second start, the Unfuwain colt has a fine chance after the stable's win with Mister Benjamin at Kempton on Saturday. High And Mighty and Joint Regent both shaped with some ability at two and look the type for staying races.
Selection: CAPRI

2.35 EQUITY FINANCIAL ABERNANT STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS A) £17,000 added 6f C4

1 538-12 CRETAN GIFT (17) (D) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 7 9 8 ... J Weaver 2 B 115
2 1202-1 MONAASSIB (17) (CD) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 7 9 8 ... K Darley 7 116
3 21233- TOMBA (157) (D) (BF) (J R Good) B Meehan 4 9 8 ... M Tebbutt 9 116
4 332'- DASHING BLUE (194) (C) (D) (Mrs D Allen) I Balding 5 9 6 ... L Dettori 11 118
5 3012- MY BEST VALENTINE (157) (CD) (The Valentines) V Soane 8 9 6 ... R Cochrane 3 116
6 2120- DANETIME (221) (D) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 4 9 2 ... M J Kinane 1 123
7 500-1 PROUD NATIVE (18) (D) (P D Savill) D Nicholls 4 9 2 ... J Reid 10 115
8 5010-3 TEDBURROW (17) (D) (P Davies) E Alston 6 9 2 ... K Fallon 5 124
9 00100- THE PUZZLER (157) (C) (D) (Lady Richard Wellesley) B Hills 7 9 2 ... D Holland 4 111
10 0/035- WIND CHEETAH (252) (D) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 4 9 2 ... W R Swinburn 6 112
11 5/201- MARCH STAR (209) (D) (N O'Callaghan) J Toller 4 8 11 ... S Sanders 8 109
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 13-8 Danetime, 11-2 Monaassib, 7-1 My Best Valentine, Proud Native, Tomba, 10-1 Cretan Gift, Dashing Blue, 14-1 Tedburrow, 20-1 Wind Cheetah, 33-1 March Star, The Puzzler
1997: Monaassib 6 9 2 D O'Donohoe 9-4 fav (E Dunlop) drawn (3) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE
An outside draw is a slight worry for Danetime, who ran a cracker against the best-drawn Royal Applause in the Group One Haydock Sprint after the Stewards' Cup win. Danetime can cope with some give in the ground. Tomba wants cut in the ground and overcame traffic problems to finish a close third in the Haydock race. This wouldn't be his ideal track and he meets Danetime on 6lb worse terms. Tedburrow and Monaassib also look held on that Haydock form, and Monaassib doesn't appeal even after a recent Doncaster win from Cretan Gift (same terms) with Tedburrow three lengths back in third. Dashing Blue has the best of the draw and was a hardy sprinter last term. The ground is a slight problem but he's closely matched with Danetime on Stewards' Cup form and he has the beating of My Best Valentine on Portland running prior to his Listed race win over the minimum here at the backend. March Star finished last season with a win from Imroz at Yarmouth (6f). This filly has won on the soft before and could go close today at decent odds. PROUD NATIVE has joined David Nicholls and showed his well-being with a Doncaster handicap win last month. Very smart as a juvenile, he has a fine chance in this Listed race being so sharp at present, and John Reid is a good booking for this well-drawn sprinter. Tedburrow has the stronger assistance of Kieren Fallon on his bid to reverse Doncaster form with Monaassib and Cretan Gift, and Eric Alston's gelding can act in this ground. The Puzzler doesn't look up to this task, but Wind Cheetah could still be anything after being lightly raced last term.
Selection: PROUD NATIVE

3.10 SHADWELL STUD NELL GWYN STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £35,000 added 3YO fillies 7f C4

1 210- ASHRAAKAT (USA) (191) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8 9 ... R Hills 1 107
2 3- CLOUD CASTLE (179) (Saeed Manana) C Brittain 8 9 ... J Reid 4 97
3 135- ELSHAMMS (178) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) A Stewart 8 9 ... M Roberts 6 97
4 13- EXCLUSIVE (198) (D) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8 9 ... M J Kinane 5 106
5 412- JIBE (USA) (198) (D) (BF) (K Abdullah) H Cecil 8 9 ... K Fallon 3 109
6 134- NANOUSHKA (182) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds II) R Hannon 8 9 ... Dane O'Neill 8 90
7 323- ROYAL SHYNESS (198) (R D Hubbard) G Lewis 8 9 ... Paul Eddery 7 110
8 51- VIGNETTE (USA) (242) (G Strawbridge) J Gosden 8 9 ... L Dettori 2 79
– 8 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Exclusive, 11-4 Jibe, 7-2 Ashraakat, 9-1 Royal Shyness, 10-1 Vignette, 20-1 Elshamms, 33-1 Nanoushka, 50-1 Cloud Castle
1997: Reunion 8 9 R Hills 5-1 (J Hills) drawn (4) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE
John Dunlop has his team in top form and ASHRAAKAT looks the answer even after the defeat at Longchamp (seventh to Loving Claim) last October. A costly failure on her debut (second to Shuhrah at Ascot), she won in fine style on the July course next time with the newcomer Jibe shaping well in fourth (beaten four lengths). Jibe won a little race at Lingfield next time and then looked a shade unlucky against Glorosia in the Fillies' Mile at Ascot. More of a staying type, Jibe could find this seven furlongs too sharp even in this ground. Exclusive was two lengths behind Jibe in third at Ascot. She will again be ridden by Mick Kinane and has reportedly been working well, but she did win at Kempton on her debut (7f) in the style of a filly who wants further than this trip. Richard Hannon won with Tadwiga at Kempton on Saturday which gives some confidence to the chance of Nanoushka, who will like this ground and a winner first time up at two. Cloud Castle went in the ground when a promising third to Lucayan Indian on her debut here last October. She could be a surprise package here in the hands of John Reid. Elshamms is probably best watched after failing twice to confirm the promise of her debut win on the July course, while Royal Shyness wouldn't be for me after the defeat in the Cheveley Park. Vignette is the type to do better after the maiden win at Haydock (6f) and she wasn't far behind the useful Midnight Line on her debut at Goodwood.
Selection: ASHRAAKAT

3.45 CRAWFORD HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 3YO 7f C4

1 1410-4 JACMAR (17) (Marsh-Sutherland-Hay) Miss L Perratt 9 7 ... J Weaver 1 89
2 153- HALF-HITCH (USA) (174) (E J Loder) D Loder 9 4 ... K Fallon 8 93
3 321- JILA (174) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 9 0 ... R Hills 13 92
4 3132- INDIAN MISSILE (186) (R C C Villers) D Chappell 9 0 ... J Reid 6 90
5 610- YOUNG JOSH (178) (D H Armitage) J Gosden 9 0 ... L Dettori 18 89
6 301-11 DIAMOND DRILL (USA) (80) (D) (Mrs T Mitchell) P Makin 9 0 ... A Clark 11 95
7 14002- LIDO (171) (G Reed) B Hills 8 12 ... D Holland 3 94
8 421- LOVE ACADEMY (174) (M Doyle) M Johnston 8 11 ... S Sanders 5 B 93
9 0540-0 CONTRARY MARY (28) (W J P Jackson) S Woods 8 9 ... N Day 14 87
10 03-145 ONE SINGER (17) (D) (Clayton Bigley Ltd) N Littmoden 8 7 ... S Whitworth 17 83
11 4500- NEXT ROUND (196) (D) (Deln Ltd) M Bell 8 6 ... R Mullen (5) 21 84
12 3214- SCENT OF SUCCESS (186) (D) (Saeed Suhail) M Stoute 8 6 ... M J Kinane 16 91
13 262-0 TUMBLEWEED HERO (19) (Tumbleweed P'ship) B Meehan 8 5 ... Pat Eddery 7 88
14 31- GRACE BROWNING (189) (Mrs R Langton) H Candy 8 5 ... C Rutter 20 98
15 5-11 MOON GORGE (17) (D) (Lady Howard de Walden) W Jarvis 8 3 ... J Quinn 12 96
16 602- AUNT SADIE (281) (J R Boughey) R Charlton 8 2 ... R Ffrench 10 84
17 044512 JULIES JEWEL (6) (D) (Mrs J P Lamming) M Chapman 8 0 ... A Polli (5) 9 95
18 066-02 BODFARIDISTINCTION (17) (Bodfari Stud) A Bailey 7 13 ... D Wright 15 90
19 3631-0 SCENE (19) (D) (P J Dixon) M Meade 7 11 ... L Charnock 19 87
20 003- TARTAN LASS (150) (Matthews Breeding) R Guest 7 11 ... Martin Dwyer 4 87
21 4-0211 GENIUS (49) (G Steinberg) S Dow 7 10 ... P Doe (5) 2 90
– 21 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Scent of Success, 7-1 Jila, 15-2 Half-Hitch, Young Josh, 10-1 Indian Missile, 11-1 Lido, 14-1 Diamond Drill, Genius, Grace Browning, Love Academy, Moon Gorge, Next Round, 16-1 Jacmar, 20-1 others
1997: Summer Queen 8 3 A Clark 40-1 (S Woods) drawn (14) 20 ran

FORM GUIDE
Grace Browning has every chance with a high draw and the Forzando filly is also in with a chance on form on her Warwick win from Bandbox and Scene (6lb better for five lengths) last October. Today's seventh furlong is smack in her favour and she kicks off her second spell on a favourable handicap mark. Next Round is drawn next to the favoured far side rail and this filly, a soft-ground winner at Folkestone last July, is from a stable having winners. Others with a decent draw are John Gosden's Young Josh, a Goodwood maiden winner and then beaten on faster ground at Redcar, and Michael Stoute's Scent Of Success, winner of a small race at Beverley and then fourth to Smart Squall in a strong nursery at Ascot. This filly meets Indian Missile, second at Ascot, on 5lb better terms. Scene and TUMBLEWEED HERO had their seasonal run over a much longer trip at Doncaster. Scene is well drawn today, but Tumbleweed Hero went well at levels against Smart Squall at Chepstow last September. On that form line Tumbleweed Hero can beat Indian Missile and Scent Of Success at these weights. Moon Gorge has already won at Southwell and Warwick this season.
Selection: TUMBLEWEED HERO

4.15 STETCHWORTH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO 6f

1 BLACK ARMY (K J Mercer) J Eustace 9 0 ... J Tate 14
2 0- CARIBBEAN MONARCH (237) (W H Scott) M Stoute 9 0 ... W R Swinburn 11
3 4320- CHIEFTAIN (237) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 9 0 ... M J Kinane 5
4 FLAK JACKET (Kennet Valley Thoroughbred II) B Meehan 9 0 ... M Tebbutt 1
5 MARWEH (Hamdan Al Maktoum) A Stewart 9 0 ... T G McLaughlin 12
6 63 PREMIER BARON (15) (Miss T J Fitzgerald) T Clement 9 0 ... G Carter 10
7 3- PREMIUM RATE (USA) (325) (Bernard Gover Bloodstock) E Dunlop 9 0 ... K Fallon 6
8 60- SURPRISE PRESENT (179) (Mohamed Suhail) R Hannon 9 0 ... Dane O'Neill 16
9 THAAYER (Hamdan Al Maktoum) M Tregoning 9 0 ... R Hills 3
10 00-0 TOP GEAR (18) (L Sheridan) P Howling 9 0 ... Paul Eddery 13
11 YOUNG-UN (M F Kentish) S Dow 9 0 ... T Quinn 2
12 CORONET (Mrs A Stewart & Partners) A Stewart 8 9 ... L Dettori 4
13 0- MARGONE (USA) (169) (Gestut Schlenderhan) G Wragg 8 9 ... M Roberts 9
14 MOON TANGO (K Al-Said) B Hills 8 9 ... D Holland 15
15 0 MORGAN LE FAY (18) (Lord Portman) B Meehan 8 9 ... Pat Eddery 8
16 02- QUITE HAPPY (168) (J Crisp) Dr J Scargill 8 9 ... J Quinn 7
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Chieftain, 7-2 Premium Rate, 5-1 Coronet, 6-1 Caribbean Monarch, 10-1 Thaayer, 12-1 Moon Tango, Margone, 14-1 Surprise Present, Morgan Le Fay, 16-1 Young-Un, 20-1 others
1997: Captain Collins 9 0 J Reid 4-7 fav (P Chapple-Hyam) drawn (4) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE
Frankie Dettori takes a rare ride for Alec Stewart on the Be My Chief filly newcomer Coronet. These maidens can easily go to a newcomer and Coronet has a live chance with Chieftain having already failed with Mick Kinane – the combination finishing last of seven to Bay Prince in a Listed race at York. PREMIUM RATE is the one they all have to beat on his debut third to Desert Prince and subsequent Middle Park Stakes winner Hayil at Doncaster. Kieren Fallon is aboard again and the Phone Trick colt looks the business in this grade. Morgan Le Fay and the similarly once-raced Margone may find Premium Rate too smart, though Michael Stoute's Caribbean Monarch has the look of an improver on his debut showing at Kempton and should go in the ground being a son of Fairy King.
Selection: PREMIUM RATE

4.45 BOADICEA STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added to stakes 3YO 7f

1 1- DARING DEREK (USA) (193) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 9 1 ... K Fallon 3
2 1- MISTER RAMBO (172) (Abbod Racing) B Meehan 9 1 ... Pat Eddery 1
3 0 KHALED (19) (Hamad Al-Mutawa) K Mahdi 8 11 ... R Cochrane 2
– 3 declared –

BETTING: 8-11 Daring Derek, 11-10 Mister Rambo, 33-1 Khaled
1997: Poteen 9 1 Pat Eddery 1-3 fav (L Cumani) drawn (4) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE
DARING DEREK justified warm favouritism against 13 rivals at Lingfield (6f) last October in the hands of Olivier Peslier. This ground will be a lot slower but the US-bred should cope with the conditions and he's preferred to Brian Meehan's Mister Rambo, the mount of Pat Eddery and also a winner on his sole juvenile start, at Newbury last backend. A neck winner from Fa-Eq with 22 others behind. Mister Rambo looks made for this seventh furlong. Khaled is hard to fancy on his debut showing when last of ten to Deep Dive at Doncaster
Selection. DARING DEREK

5.20 MUSEUM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO 1m 2f

1 BORN WINNER (Wafic Said) H Cecil 9 0 ... W Ryan 19
2 5- DIVINAYSHAN (169) (Ravi Tikkoo) R Armstrong 9 0 ... R Price 13
3 ELLEGANT GENT (Hazzar Partnership) J Pearce 9 0 ... A Polli (5) 14
4 2- EVANDER (171) (A Speelman) P Cole 9 0 ... T Quinn 10
5 GENEROUS WAYS (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9 0 ... J Reid 8
6 2- GREEK DANCE (216) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 9 0 ... W R Swinburn 2
7 HARMONY (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 9 0 ... O Urbina 15
8 HAWADETH (Hamdan Al Maktoum) M Tregoning 9 0 ... R Hills 6
9 34- KILCULLEN (159) (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9 0 ... L Dettori 3
10 5- KIMBERLEY (167) (Mrs J Van Geest) G Wragg 9 0 ... G Milligan 18
11 MARIDPOUR (HH Aga Khan) M Stoute 9 0 ... M J Kinane 1
12 MERRY PRINCE (D Fisher) M Jarvis 9 0 ... P Robinson 5
13 00- PANTAR (196) (Robert Hitchins) I Balding 9 0 ... K Darley 16
14 SHAMAWAN (HH Aga Khan) L Cumani 9 0 ... J Weaver 12
15 0- STERNSINGER (USA) (187) (Gestut Schlenderhan) H Cecil 9 0 ... K Fallon 7
16 WAVE RACER (Khalifa Sultan) B Hanbury 9 0 ... J Stack 17
17 32- WAY OUT YONDER (196) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9 0 ... D Holland 4
18 3- ANNA (274) (C Brittain) C Brittain 8 9 ... D Harrison 11
19 SHARP SARAH (W Gredley) B Hills 8 9 ... J D Smith (3) 9
– 19 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Greek Dance, 7-2 Evander, 5-1 Sternsinger, 6-1 Maridpour, 8-1 Way Out Yonder, 10-1 Kilcullen, Pantar, Shamawan, 12-1 Born Winner, Generous Ways, 14-1 Hawadeth, 16-1 others
1997: Kingfisher Mill 9 0 Pat Eddery 3-1 fav (Mrs J Cecil) drawn (7) 18 ran

FORM GUIDE
A win by Capri in the opener will be a pointer to the chance of stablemate Sternsinger, who shaped with lots of promise on his only juvenile start at Yarmouth last backend behind James Fanshawe's Publisher. But the one they have to beat is Michael Stoute's GREEK DANCE, who will stay every yard of this trip and a pleasing second to the very useful Tamarisk at Kempton (7f) on his only juvenile start. Evander was beaten only a head by Desert Mirage at Newbury (1m) on his debut at the backend. He should go well, while the newcomers Generous Ways and Maridpour (Mick Kinane) are others to note. Way Out Yonder did well at two and Kilcullen is bred to do well for this step up in distance.
Selection: GREEK DANCE

Results

KEMPTON

2.00: 1. QUEEN OF SCOTLAND (Candy Morris) 10-1; 2. Bushwhacker 11-1; 3. Lemon Bridge 8-1. 12 ran. 5-4 fav Volontiers (4th). 2½, 1. (M Channon, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £11.00; £2.90, £3.20, £2.40. Dual Forecast: £48.40. CSF: £114.11. Trio: £491.00 (part won, £214.40 to Newmarket 3.45 today). Non Runners: Prevalence, Wild Colonial Boy.

2.35: 1. ANDREYEV (R Hughes) 100-30; 2. Carranita 2-1 fav; 3. Hard To Figure 8-1. 5 ran. 1½, 6. (R Hannon, East Everleigh). Tote: £5.10; £2.40, £1.70. DF: £5.20. CSF: £9.04.

3.05: 1. GARUDA (Pat Eddery) 3-1 jt fav; 2. Ukraine Venture 13-2; 3. Star Precision 4-1. 8 ran. 3-1 jt fav Russian Music (4th). 9, 1½. (J Dunlop, Arundel). Tote: £3.30; £1.90, £2.70. DF: £15.70. CSF: £20.80.

3.40: 1. AMERICAN WHISPER (G Lowther) 12-1; 2. Almond Rock 18-1; 3. Supplizi 50-1; 4. Prince of Denial 11-1. 16 ran. 7-2 fav Topatori (5th). 1¾, ½. (P Harris, Berkhamsted). Tote: £20.30; £3.90, £2.80, £14.00, £2.90. DF: £277.20. CSF: £179.88. Tricast: £8198.48. Trio: £2,383.70 (part won. £1997.57 carried forward). After a stewards' inquiry, the result stood.

4.10: 1. MARSAD (T Quinn) 12-1; 2. Johnny Staccato 16-1; 3. Ca'd'oro 20-1; 4. Grey Kingdom 8-1 co fav. 24 ran. 8-1 co favs Levelled & Pleading. 2, 3½. (J Akehurst, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £17.20; £3.50, £4.40, £4.50, £1.90. DF: £304.00. CSF: £164.41. Tricast: £3582.23. Trio: £2,037.10.

4.45: 1. RAFFAELLO (R Hughes) 15-8 fav; 2. Benjamin Frank 9-4; 3. Cadmax 9-1. 6 ran. 1½, dist. (M Channon, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £2.30; £1.70, £2.00. DF: £2.90. CSF: £5.28.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £56,524.08 carried forward to Newmarket today).
Placepot: £881.00. Quadpot: £125.30.
Place 6: £529.99. Place 5: £87.38.

NEWCASTLE

2.25: 1. PRINCIPALITY (K Darley) 4-9 fav; 2. Saphire 14-1; 3. Lady Naim 5-1. 8 ran. nk, 12. (J Berry, Cockerham). Tote: £1.40; £1.40, £3.80. DF: £5.70. CSF: £8.78.

2.55: 1. MAGIC MILL (T Williams) 14-1; 2. Over To You 11-2; 3. Knobbleeneeze 8-1. 11 ran. 9-2 fav Arantxa. 10, 1¼. (J L Eyre, Thirsk). Tote: £21.40; £4.90, £2.80, £2.20. DF: £105.80. CSF: £81.06. Tricast: £453.81. Trio: £149.50.

3.30: 1. ALL MADE UP (M Roberts) 5-4 fav; 2. Mr Lurpak 5-1; 3. Long Bond 9-2. 5 ran. 8, 1¼. (M Bell, Newmarket). Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £1.30. DF: £4.00. CSF: £7.20.

4.05: 1. FOR CATHAL (G Lee) 4-9 fav; 2. Lippy Louise 5-1; 3. Paladus 7-1. 8 ran. 2, 9. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £2.20. CSF: £2.79.

4.35: 1. ETHEREAL (D Holland) 5-2; 2. Pursuit Venture 2-1 fav; 3. Mansa Musa 12-1. 8 ran. 3, 9. (D Loder, Newmarket). Tote: £3.30; £1.30, £1.10, £4.30. DF: £4.40. CSF: £7.02.

5.05: 1. STAGE FRIGHT (N Hennity) 3-1; 2. Fern Leader 11-4 jt fav; 3. Danbys Gorse 100-30. 8 ran. 11-4 jt fav Cittadino (4th). 3½, 9. (F Murphy, Middleham). Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.40. DF: £3.10. CSF: £10.47.

5.35: 1. MUNGO PARK (J Fortune) 7-2; 2. Knotty Hill 12-1; 3. Just Bob 10-1. 9 ran. 5-2 fav Nifty Norman. 3, 1½. (Mrs J Ramsden, Thirsk). Tote: £4.70; £1.70, £4.60, £4.10. DF: £36.80. CSF: £44.00. Tricast: £365.35. Trio: £106.10. NR: Bowlers Boy.

Placepot: £31.70. Quadpot: £4.20.
Place 6: £13.39. Place 5: £9.77.

CARLISLE

2.15: 1. AGHAWADDA GOLD (J Callaghan) 4-7 fav; 2. Donnybrook 8-1; 3. The Mickletonian 6-1. 18 ran. 2½, 1. (T Tate). Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.20, £1.30. Dual Forecast: £5.20. Computer Straight Forecast: £3.95. NR: Hyndburn Bridge.

2.45: 1. GALE FORCE (B Grattan) 7-1; 2. Dragons Bay 4-1; 3. Desert Brave 6-1. 12 ran. 11-4 fav The Next Waltz. 1¼, 5½. (P Beaumont). Tote: £6.50; £3.30, £2.10, £1.90. DF: £68.70. CSF: £36.03. Tricast: £173.44.

3.15: 1. ALPINE PANTHER (P Niven) 1-3 fav; 2. Hunting Slane 66-1; 3. Celtic Duke 9-1. 9 ran. 4, 4. (Mrs M Reveley). Tote: £1.50; £1.30, £4.00, £1.50. DF: £34.50. CSF: £46.41.

3.45: 1. COVERDALE LANE (R Wilkinson) 10-1; 2. Kilcolgan 8-1; 3. Tico Gold 20-1. 10 ran. 8-11 fav Committed Schedule (fell). 7, 8. (Mrs S Smith). Tote: £12.00; £2.30, £2.60, £4.80. DF: £77.90. CSF: £65.46. Tricast: £1,099.27.

4.15: 1. GLENUGIE (N Bentley) 5-1; 2. Samanid 10-1; 3. Northern Maestro 4-1. 11 ran. 3-1 fav Contrafire. 5, 3. (G Moore). Tote: £6.80; £2.70, £3.50, £1.60. DF: £29.10. CSF: £53.30. Tricast: £209.79. NR: Palace of Gold.

4.45: 1. COOL YULE (Mr B Gibson) 4-1; 2. Itsalltheonetoday 20-1; 3. Floruceva 14-1. 10 ran. 2-1 fav Fiddlers Brae (pulled up). 5, ½. (R Kyle). Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £3.20, £3.00. DF: £39.00. CSF: £65.50. NRs: Kanjo Olda, The Black Bishop.

5.15: 1. AHRAYDOUBLEYOU (G F Ryan) 20-1; 2. Sumthyne Special 8-1; 3. Frosty Light 10-1. 19 ran. evens fav Danyerman. ½, 10. (Mrs S Smith). Tote: £41.20; £6.10, £2.30, £3.40. DF: £144.60. CSF: £174.60. NR: Rancheros.

Placepot: £194.40. Quadpot: £16.25.
Place 6: £136.87. Place 5: £123.85.

CHEPSTOW

2.00: 1. LANSDOWNE (T J Murphy) 7-4 fav; 2. Little Serena 11-1; 3. Clongour 15-2. 8 ran. 4, nk. (P Nicholls). Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £1.70, £2.50. DF: £9.60. CSF: £16.95.

2.30: 1. MADISON COUNTY (C Maude) 6-4 fav; 2. Nalysari 5-2; 3. Thursday Night 7-2. 4 ran. 18, 26. (P Hobbs). Tote: £2.30. DF: £2.20. CSF: £5.27. NR: Bob Devani.

3.00: 1. RED CURATE (W Marston) 4-6 fav; 2. Tamarindo 6-4; 3. Dun Coady 10-1. 3 ran. 5, 29. (G McCourt). Tote: £1.50. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.91. NR: Blueshaan.

3.30: 1. POTENTATE (Jamie Evans) 2-1; 2. Cadougold 11-8 fav; 3. Relkeel 2-1. 3 ran. ½, 12. (M Pipe). Tote: £2.30. DF: £1.30. CSF: £4.59.

4.00: 1. FLAPJACK LAD (C Maude) 7-4 fav; 2. Orswell Lad 7-2; 3. Newton Point 5-2. 4 ran. ¾, ½. (N Twiston-Davies). Tote: £2.40. DF: £4.10. CSF: £7.37.

4.30: 1. MON AMIE (T J Murphy) 5-2; 2. Handy Lass 9-1; 3. Denham Hill 11-1. 7 ran. 15-8 fav Sadler's Realm. 7, 9. (A Hobbs). Tote: £3.30. CSF: £23.26. Tricast: £195.97. NR: Distant Storm.

Placepot: £104.80. Quadpot: £15.00.
Place 6: £148.45. Place 5: £82.40.

FAKENHAM

2.30: 1. SWEET LITTLE BRIAR (P Henley) 12-1; 2. Lucy Tufty 15-8 fav; 3. Stone Island 33-1. 6 ran. hd, 3. (G Bravery). Tote: £10.90; £2.90, £1.70. DF: £22.40. CSF: £31.06. NR: Springfield Rhyme.

3.05: 1. MOUNTSHANNON (Mrs T Hill) 3-1; 2. Jack The Td 9-4 jt fav; 3. Step In Line 9-4 jt fav. 5 ran. 1½, dist. (Mrs T Hill). Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £1.30. DF: £5.70. CSF: £9.54.

3.40: 1. CROWN AND CUSHION (P Hide) 3-1; 2. Poly Amanshaa 13-2; 3. Reach The Clouds 15-8 fav. 10 ran. 3, 10. (T Greathead). Tote: £5.10; £1.80, £2.20, £1.40. DF: £12.30. CSF: £23.45. Tricast: £44.06.

4.15: 1. JO JO BOY (Mr N Bloom) 3-1 jt fav; 2. Cracking Idea 4-1; 3. Cherry Chap 14-1. 9 ran. 3-1 jt fav Dromin Leader (6th). 3, dist. (M Bloom). Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £1.70, £4.10. DF: £6.20. CSF: £15.01.

4.50: 1. ARDENBAR (Mr C Rae) 9-1; 2. Stage Player 25-1; 3. First Instance 7-2. 9 ran. 2-1 fav Royal Crimson (4th). 1, 22. (J Payne). Tote: £11.90; £2.10, £6.70, £1.70. DF: £412.50. CSF: £167.53. Tricast: £866.24. NRs: Another Course, Ryton Run.

5.25: 1. SKYCAB (P Hide) evens fav; 2. Memsahib Ofesteem 4-1; 3. Eastern Project 11-2. 6 ran. 19, 1. (J Gifford). Tote: £2.20; £1.80, £1.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £5.85.

Placepot: £28.80. Quadpot: £11.80.
Place 6: £34.64. Place 5: £15.76.

HEREFORD

2.25: 1. TEAATRAL (L Harvey) 4-11 fav; 2. Digital Option 6-1; 3. Flowing Fortune 7-2. 4 ran. 6, dist. (C Egerton). Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.90. CSF: £3.16.

3.00: 1. LATE ENCOUNTER (Mr A Wintle) 7-2; 2. J B Lad 33-1; 3. Swordella 9-1. 10 ran. 4-5 fav Principle Music. 25, 2. (R Brown). Tote: £5.90; £1.50, £7.00, £2.20. DF: £274.70. CSF: £103.09.

3.35: 1. COOL AS A CUCUMBER (M Richards) 2-1 fav; 2. Shimba Hills 14-1; 3. Lord Nitrogen 14-1. 10 ran. 3½, 4. (O Sherwood). Tote: £2.70; £1.70, £3.70, £2.90. DF: £31.00. CSF: £31.24. Tricast: £218.41.

4.10: 1. NOW WE KNOW (O Burrows) 4-6 fav; 2. September Breeze 14-1; 3. Montecot 11-1. 11 ran. 14, 3. (M Sheppard). Tote: £1.70; £1.30, £2.20, £2.70. DF: £15.90. CSF: £13.79. Accountancy Lady (6-4) was withdrawn not under orders, Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduct 40p in the pound.

4.45: 1. MR MAGNETIC (S Wynne) Evens; 2. River Bay 5-6 fav; 3. Cherry Orchid 25-1. 4 ran. 9, dist. (T Forster). Tote: £2.00. DF: £1.30. CSF: £2.20. NR: Boro Hill.

5.20: 1. SAAFI (G Shenkin) 6-1; 2. Dovetto 6-4 fav; 3. Sky Burst 6-1. 8 ran. 4, 9. (R Baker). Tote: £7.00; £1.60, £1.30, £2.00. DF: £7.00. CSF: £16.65. Tricast: £54.78.

Placepot: £35.70. Quadpot: £5.10.
Place 6: £65.76. Place 5: £44.57.

MARKET RASEN

2.15: 1. GRATE BRITISH (G Tormey) 3-1; 2. Woodrising 7-2; 3. Nicola's Princess 11-4 fav. 13 ran. 5, 6. (J Allen). Tote: £3.10; £1.50, £2.00, £1.60. DF: £5.30. CSF: £13.63. Trio: £6.20. NRs: Meg's Memory, Reinhardt.

2.45: 1. AVANTI EXPRESS (R Thornton) 11-10 jt fav; 2. Moor Hall Prince 33-1; 3. Falcon's Flame 8-1. 4 ran. 11-10 Jt fav Quango (4th). dist, 24. (C Egerton). Tote: £1.90. DF: £7.90. CSF: £14.48.

3.20: 1. GANDOUGE GLEN (Derek Byrne) 7-1; 2. Miss Roberto 4-6 fav; 3. Non Vintage 7-4. 3 ran. 2½, 8. (Mrs A Johnson). Tote: £6.20. DF: £2.70. CSF: £11.32. NR: Teaatral.

3.55: 1. COOL SPOT (R Thornton) 7-4 fav; 2. Marble Man 6-4; 3. Centaur Express 2-1. 4 ran. dist, dist. (G Enright). Tote: £3.30. DF: £3.30. CSF: £5.92.

4.30: 1. DECOUPAGE (R Thornton) 2-5 fav; 2. Orange Imp 4-1; 3. Thirty Below 12-1. 6 ran. 12, 21. (C Egerton). Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.47.

5.00: 1. DEEL QUAY (G Tormey) 3-1; 2. Inch Champion 13-2; 3. Corbleu 6-1. 7 ran. 2-1 fav Apache Raider. 1½, 24. (J Buckley). Tote: £4.50; £1.70, £5.30. DF: £11.00. CSF: £21.08. Tricast: £100.86. NR: Cross the Rubicon.

5.30: 1. BORA BORA (L Sutham) 5-2; 2. Artic Ground 11-2; 3. Cash For Questions 16-1. 11 ran. 13-8 fav Rodders. 9, 21. (N Twiston-Davies). Tote: £2.60; £1.20, £2.20, £4.00. DF: £10.80. CSF: £17.67. Trio: £67.20.

Placepot: £399.00. Quadpot: £94.90 (part won, £51.34 to Newmarket today).
Place 6: £163.60. Place 5: £103.19.

PLUMPTON

2.30: 1. KARABURAN (J Leech) 12-1; 2. Prairie Minstrel 2-1 jt fav; 3. Not Forgotten 2-1 jt fav. 5 ran. 7, 1½. (R Phillips). Tote: £14.50; £3.70, £1.60. DF: £10.20. CSF: £33.57.

3.00: 1. SCOBIE GIRL (I Lawrence) 6-4 fav; 2. Sissinghurst Flyer 13-8; 3. Another Lafontaine 11-4. 4 ran. 7, dist. (J Mullins). Tote: £2.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £4.16. NR: Calvaro.

3.30: 1. FORT KNOX (J K McCarthy) 33-1; 2. Go Go Henry 9-4 fav; 3. Clear Water 10-1. 10 ran. ½, nk. (R Flower). Tote: £27.70; £8.80, £1.90, £2.80. DF: £92.80. CSF: £105.62. Trio: £92.10.

4.00: 1. SYNIEYOURMISSED (M Ahern) 3-1; 2. Dormston Boyo 9-1; 3. Joker Jack 14-1. 7 ran. 9-4 fav Docklands Courier (fell). 6, 2. (P Eccles). Tote: £5.90; £2.90, £3.10. DF: £12.80. CSF: £26.82.

4.30: 1. BARONCELLI (I Lawrence) 6-1; 2. I'minonit 6-1; 3. The Herbivore 6-1. 7 ran. 11-8 fav Ballygriffin Lad (fell). 26, 4. (M Wilkinson). Tote: £7.50; £3.10, £2.60. DF: £21.90. CSF: £59.15.

5.00: 1. MILLMOUNT (X Aizpuru) 6-4 fav; 2. Kreef 5-2; 3. Equity's Darling 9-2. 4 ran. 11, 22. (T McGovern). Tote: £2.60. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.41.

Placepot: £923.80. Quadpot: £172.80 (pool of £163.57 to Newmarket today.
Place 6: £421.26. Place 5: £171.83.

UTTOXETER

2.15: 1. WONTCOSTALOTBUT (C Llewellyn) 11-8; 2. Tam O'Shanter 12-1; 3. Coble 50-1. 4 ran. 8-11 fav Rainbow Star (pulled up). 18, dist. (M Wilkinson). Tote: £2.40. DF: £6.20. CSF: £11.64.

2.50: 1. KIDLAW (N Smith) 100-30; 2. Alaskan Heir 5-1; 3. The Crooked Oak 11-10 fav. 7 ran. 7, 12. (Mrs M Reveley). Tote: £4.00; £2.00, £2.00. DF: £8.50. CSF: £15.98.

3.25: 1. MERRY MASQUERADE (N Smith) 11-8 fav; 2. Miss Brecknell 3-1; 3. Daru 7-1. 5 ran. 28, 25. (Mrs M Reveley). Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £1.50. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.29.

4.00: 1. LANCASTRIAN JET (C Llewellyn) 4-6 fav; 2. Lottery Ticket 3-1; 3. Coralette 14-1. 5 ran. 12, 1½. (T Forster). Tote: £1.50; £1.00, £2.10. DF: £1.90. CSF: £2.95. NR: Teeton Thomas.

4.35: 1. HOODWINKER (Gary Lyons) 15-8; 2. Clare Man 7-4 fav; 3. Boots Madden 11-4. 4 ran. ½, 2½. (W Jenks). Tote: £2.80. DF: £1.60. CSF: £5.26.

5.10: 1. CHAMPAGNE FRIEND (V Slattery) 13-8 fav; 2. Barton Chic 15-8; 3. Ardrom 100-30. 6 ran. 7, 22. (O O'Neill). Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.30. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.64.

Placepot: £36.50. Quadpot: £4.40.
Place 6: £34.16. Place 5: £11.91.

WETHERBY

2.15: 1. DENTICULATA (K Johnson) 13-2; 2. Diddy Rymer 7-2; 3. Sedvicta 7-2. 7 ran. 11-4 fav Brancher (4th). 7, 4. (P Spottiswood). Tote: £9.10; £4.70, £2.20. DF: £18.20. CSF: £27.53.

2.45: 1. FLAT TOP (A Dobbin) 100-30; 2. Phar Echo 4-1; 3. Hydro 14-1. 8 ran. 9-4 fav Cuthill Hope (fell). dist, dist. (M W Easterby). Tote: £4.10; £1.80, £2.00. DF: £8.50. CSF: £15.93.

3.15: 1. DULAS BAY (Richard Guest) 4-1; 2. Bamburgh Boy 13-8; 3. Queensway 5-4 fav. 5 ran. 5, 20. (M W Easterby). Tote: £4.70; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £4.20. CSF: £10.79.

3.50: 1. STRATH ROYAL (M Brennan) 100-30; 2. Kenmore-Speed 10-1; 3. Davy Blake 9-2. 6 ran. 5-2 fav Random Harvest (4th). 1½, 13. (O Brennan). Tote: £4.30; £2.60, £2.90. DF: £17.90. CSF: £29.66.

4.25: 1. SHARE OPTIONS (L Wyer) 13-8 fav; 2. Kibby Bank 6-1; 3. Organ Recital 3-1. 5 ran. 1, 6. (T Easterby). Tote: £2.30; £1.30, £1.80. DF: £3.80. CSF: £10.38.

4.55: 1. KIERCHEM (Mrs F Needham) 3-1; 2. After Grace 12-1; 3. Oversman 15-8 fav. 14 ran. 3½, 7. (C Grant). Tote: £12.20; £3.00, £3.10, £1.20. DF: £85.40. CSF: £107.00. Tricast: £270.82. Trio: £94.60.

Placepot: £170.00. Quadpot: £13.60.
Place 6: £218.26. Place 5: £71.66.

WINCANTON

2.00: 1. VICAR'S VASE (Mr R Wakley) 5-1; 2. Super Mac 10-1; 3. Cinnamon Club 14-1. 9 ran. 1-2 fav Easter Ross. 3½, 1½. (K Bailey). Tote: £7.00; £1.50, £1.70, £2.20. DF: £28.40. CSF: £53.61. Trio: £33.90. NR: Cool Wager.

2.30: 1. PARAHANDY (J Culloty) 2-1 fav; 2. Gillan Cove 9-2; 3. Wayward King 5-1. 8 ran. Nk, 7. (J Mullins). Tote: £4.20; £1.70, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £14.50. CSF: £11.09.

3.00: 1. MISS ONDEE (G Supple) 3-10 fav; 2. Cadbury Castle 13-2; 3. Gibbon Boy 16-1. 4 ran. 2½, dist. (M Pipe). Tote: £1.40. DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.91. NRs: Buy My Ply, Park Ridge.

3.30: 1. SEIZE THE DAY (Miss M Coombe) 3-1 fav; 2. Operetto 8-1; 3. Rambling Sam 11-2. 9 ran. 10, 6. (M Coombe). Tote: £3.20; £1.60, £4.20, £3.30. DF: £48.60. CSF: £26.18. Tricast: £116.41. Trio: £124.90 (part won. £70.37 to Newmarket 3.45 today).

4.00: 1. ROVESTAR (R Farrant) 4-1; 2. Winspit 13-2; 3. Lucky Eddie 5-1. 10 ran. 9-4 fav Sierra Bay. 7, 2½. (C Popham). Tote: £6.10; £2.00, £1.50. DF: £16.50. CSF: £26.51. Tricast: £119.71. Trio: £96.20.

4.30: 1. CLINTON (Mr R Wakley) 7-2; 2. King's Banker 8-13 fav; 3. Ivory Coaster 9-1. 18 ran. 1, 11. (K Bailey). Tote: £5.90; £2.00, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £4.10. CSF: £6.34. Trio: £4.70.

Placepot: £97.40. Quadpot: £6.20.
Place 6: £36.12. Place 5: £5.90.

FAIRYHOUSE

IRISH GRAND NATIONAL 3.55: 1. BOBBYJO (P Carberry) 8-1; 2. Papillon 20-1; 3. Call It A Day 10-1; 4. Full Of Oats 50-1. 22 ran. 7-1 fav Bob Treacy. ½, 9. (T Carberry). Tote: £7.60; £2.20, £2.50, £3.70, £17.50. Reverse Forecast: £240.30. CSF: £153.38. Tricast: £1804.27. Non Runner: Time For A Run

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O'Meara emerges from the shadows

By Andy Farrell
in Augusta

THERE IS a practice match at Isleworth, in Orlando, that takes place the week before the Masters which everyone will now want to join, for the simple reason that it has provided the last two winners at Augusta National.

A year ago, Tiger Woods shot a 59 and then won the Masters by a record 12 strokes. This year, Mark O'Meara birdied the last three holes to beat Woods. On Sunday, he birdied three of the last four holes at Augusta National to beat Fred Couples and David Duval by a shot in the 62nd US Masters. Woods then slipped the famous green jacket onto the shoulders of his friend.

O'Meara, at 41, won his first professional major championship to cap a career which had seen 14 previous victories, but none of them really memorable ones.

The winner is not always memorable, either. Only this week in Augusta, someone in a restaurant asked O'Meara whether he was Mark McCumber. "It happens all the time," O'Meara said. "Either McCumber or Tom Lehman. Maybe now people will recognise me as Mark O'Meara, the Masters champion."

O'Meara admitted practising with Woods since the youngster, 19 years his junior, had forced him to elevate his game. O'Meara usually asks for a shot on the par-fives, but at the presentation ceremony, Woods told him: "You're the champion now, you have to give me shots."

It also rankled with O'Meara that Jack Nicklaus was allowed to count his two US Amateur titles as majors, but O'Meara, who won the same title in 1979, was not. But he was not as worried as others about the lack of a major on his CV.

"I have no desire to trade places with Tiger Woods," he said. "I don't need to be a superstar, just a good player and a good father and parent. I don't classify myself as a great player like a Nicklaus or Hogan or Sarazen.

"To win a major is a dream come true but given all the other things I have done in my career, I never put myself down for not winning one."

It was a silky putter, still the first requirement for a Masters winner, that allowed O'Meara to slip past Couples and Duval.

On a typically thrilling Sunday afternoon at Augusta, Couples made the pace until a double bogey at the 13th. Hooking his drive into the trees, the 1992 champion hacked back out but then put his third shot into Rae's Creek.

He then recouped some of the lost ground two holes later by hitting a six-iron onto the 15th green for an eagle putt that even he could not miss.

By now Duval, who has won four times in the last six months, had taken the lead with a run of six birdies in nine holes but then bogeyed the 16th and set the clubhouse lead at eight under.

Mark O'Meara, who claimed his first major by winning the Masters on Sunday, receives his green jacket from the 1997 champion, Tiger Woods Photograph: Gary Hershorn/Reuters

Couples missed a short birdie chance at the 17th but then drove into sand at the last and caught another greenside bunker.

O'Meara, who holed two long putts early in his round, birdied the 15th, then holed from six feet at the 17th. He finished with a left-to-right 15-footer at the last. "I told myself, make the putt, there's no need for a play-off," O'Meara said.

Woods, who closed with a 70 to finish six strokes back, conceded his swing was off over the week. He added: "The funny thing is I didn't put as much pressure on myself as last year. Unfortunately, I didn't win, but I enjoyed the experience more."

If Duval, 27, had won, it would have been the fourth victory for a twentysomething in the last five majors. But this Masters restored the view that golf is a game for all ages. There was Gay Brewer on day one, Gary Player making the cut and Nicklaus's extraordinary sixth place finish on his 40th appearance. "Every time I think I'm washed up, and everybody else does, I seem to play a little better," the 58-year-old said.

"I hope I'm still alive at 58, let alone playing in the Masters," Colin Montgomerie said. Monty had his best ever finish, at eighth, and revised his view of a year ago that he would never win at Augusta. "I might win here, but I'd have to do everything right. I still did not putt well enough. You have to be aggressive, but at the right times." The Scot's 122 putts for the week compared horribly with O'Meara's 105.

Darren Clarke finished alongside Monty, Woods and Justin Leonard, a fine showing on his debut. "This is important for my career," he said. "I have always played poorly in the States before. I'm looking forward to Hilton Head next week with renewed enthusiasm."

The European enthusiasm for Augusta continues, even if not providing the winner for the last two years is not what we are used to. Per-Ulrik Johansson, the Swede with the reversed beret, finished 12th for the second time in two attempts and tied with Jose Maria Olazabal. Ian Woosnam was a shot further back, and his 16th place was the 1991 winner's third best result.

Final scores from the US Masters

(US unless stated)

Score	Player	Rounds
279	M O'Meara	74 70 68 67
280	D Duval	71 68 74 67
	F Couples	69 70 71 70
281	J Furyk	76 70 67 68
282	P Azinger	71 72 69 70
283	D Toms	75 72 72 64
	J Nicklaus	73 72 70 68
285	J Leonard	74 73 69 69
	D Clarke (GB)	76 73 67 69
	T Woods	71 72 72 70
	C Montgomerie (GB)	71 75 69 70
286	P-U Johansson (Swe)	74 75 67 70
	J M Olazabal (Sp)	70 73 71 72
	J Haas	72 71 71 72
	P Mickelson	74 69 69 74
287	I Woosnam (GB)	74 71 72 70
	S McCarron	73 71 72 71
	M Calcavecchia	74 74 69 70
	E Els (SA)	75 70 70 72
	S Hoch	70 71 73 73
288	W Wood	74 74 70 70
	*M Kuchar	72 76 68 72
289	S Cink	74 76 69 70
	J Huston	77 71 70 71
	J Maggert	72 73 72 72
290	S Jones	75 70 75 70
	D Frost (SA)	72 73 74 71
	B Faxon	73 74 71 72
291	M Bradley	73 74 72 72
292	S Elkington (Aus)	75 75 71 71
293	J Parnevik (Swe)	75 75 71 71
	A Magee	74 72 74 73
294	P Blackmar	71 78 75 70
	L Janzen	76 74 72 72
	F Zoeller	71 74 75 74
	J Daly	77 71 71 75
	D Love	74 75 67 78
295	T Kite	73 74 74 74
296	B Langer (Ger)	75 73 74 74
	P Stankowski	70 80 72 74
297	C Pavin	73 77 72 75
	C Stadler	79 68 73 77
298	J Cook	75 73 74 76
300	L Westwood (GB)	74 78 72 76
301	*J Kribel	74 76 76 75
302	G Player (SA)	77 72 78 75

*denotes amateur

Mark O'Meara factfile

1957 Born 13 January.
1979 Won the US Amateur Championship – beating John Cook.
1980 Turned professional.
1981 Named the USPGA Tour Rookie of the Year.
1984 Took his first USPGA Tour title – Greater Milwaukee Open.
1985 Part of the USA team that lost the Ryder Cup at The Belfry.
1986 Won the Australian Masters.
1987 First European Tour win – Lawrence Batley International.
1989 Helped the US draw 14-14 in the Ryder Cup, again at The Belfry.
1991 Won the Ryder Cup with the US at Kiawah Island.
1996 Partnered Phil Mickelson and Steve Stricker to Dunhill Cup victory at St Andrews.
1997 Won the Lancôme Trophy in France just two weeks before the Ryder Cup. Finished 13th on the US money list with over $1m for the second season running. Member of losing USA team in Ryder Cup at Valderrama.
1998 Wins Masters – his first major.

PHILIPS
ECOTONE

Today we publish the results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. Due to the holiday period fully updated results will appear on Sunday 19th April. The league table includes all scores up to March 29th. The player list includes scores from all games played until April 5th. Neither set of scores includes results from the FA Cup. The overall winner at the end of the season will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup finals in France this summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in the *Independent on Sunday*.

HOW TO SCORE

player scores	4
clean sheet	4
winning goal	1
successful assist	3
yellow card	-1
red card	-3
manager's team wins	3
draw	1

Independent Fantasy Football

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 29 MARCH

1	Mr D Edmington	Edmo United	970
2	Mr Archer	No Wright	965
3	Mr J Hayes	Early Birds	963
4	Mr C King	Seeking Victory	961
4	Mr P Tuffer	Pin Ups 4	961
4	Mr D Evans	Boothen End Old Boys	961
4	Mr J Cox	Southville FC	961
8	Mr B Sari	Simply The Best	954
9	Mr D Sari	The Untouchables	950
[illegible]	Mr D Baker	Deja Vu	950
9	Mr D Aston	Billys Boy's 2nd 11	950
12	Mr S Scott	Unbeatable	948
13	Mr A Choudi	Nikies 9th 11	944
14	Mr I Boyle	Wembley Bounders	940
14	Mr A Wingrove	Tonys Boys	940
14	Mr T Lyons	Dianas Demons	940
17	Mr G Bell	The Hairy Monsters	938
18	Mr M Pawley	Robertis Raiders	936
19	Mr P Cridland	PDC2	932
20	Mr S Aston	Billy Boyis 2nd 11	930
21	Mr K Boyle	Clogston Rovers	929
22	Mr S Scott	The Dream Team	927
22	Mr A Cummingham	The Zebra	927
24	Mr M Ewins	Mikes C Team	926
24	Mr T Brazier	Wow For Short	926
27	Mr I Brown	The Hoofers	925
28	Mr J McCrossam	Washed Up Army	923
29	Miss L Wild	Amerretto FC	922
30	Mr D Ackroyd	Jacks Lads	919
31	Mr A Gromley	Celtic Warriors 2	917
31	No Name	Leo Dis	917
31	Mr M Ewins	Mikes B Team	917
34	Mr A Cottrell	Bray Dynamo	915
35	Mr M Ewins	Ive Started But Will I Finish	914
35	Mr M Ewins	Mikes A Team	914
35	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	914
38	Mr D Thomas	Scunthorpe Extras	912
39	Mr S Mann	Rebecca Rovers	911
39	Mr J Cox	Retro Rovers	911
41	Mr I Bikar	Mambo Mambo	910
41	Ms F Coleton	Leggers Lunatics	910

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 5 APRIL

GOALKEEPERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
[illegible]	Seaman	ARS	5	59	4.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	0	0	1.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	1	30	3.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	5	57	4.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	0	7	1.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	BAR	2	44	1.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	BAR	0	12	1.0
[illegible]	Flowers	BLA	1	55	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	0	12	[illegible]
[illegible]	Branagan	BOL	6	[illegible]	1.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	CHE	0	[illegible]	1.0
[illegible]	Grodas	TOT	0	0	1.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	COV	1	25	[illegible]
[illegible]	Hedman	COV	0	[illegible]	1.0
[illegible]	Nash	CRY	0	5	1.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	CRY	0	[illegible]	1.0
540	Poom	DER	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Hoult	DER	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	EVE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	EVE	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.5
[illegible]	Martyn	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.2
[illegible]	Keller	LEI	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	LEI	0	[illegible]	1.5
[illegible]	James	LIV	0	50	3.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	LIV	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	MAN	0	[illegible]	3.5
[illegible]	Van Der Gouw	MAN	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	NEW	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Hislop	NEW	0	21	2.5
[illegible]	Pressman	SHEF	5	62	3.0
[illegible]	Taylor	SOU	1	0	1.5
[illegible]	Beasant	SOU	0	0	1.0
[illegible]	Walker	TOT	[illegible]	47	3.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	TOT	[illegible]	21	1.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	WH	1	13	1.5
[illegible]	Sullivan	WIM	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.7

DEFENDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	63	2.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	0	11	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	[illegible]	26	1.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	4	57	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BAR	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	BAR	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BAR	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BAR	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	CHE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	71	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.5
455	Cox	BOL	5	29	2.5
456	Elliott	BOL	0	12	3.0
457	Fairclough	BOL	0	7	2.0
458	Taggart	BOL	0	19	2.5
459	Bergsson	BOL	6	68	1.5
460	Duberry	CHE	0	44	3.0
463	Petrescu	CHE	5	91	3.0
464	Lambourde	CHE	0	3	3.0
465	Leboeuf	CHE	5	76	5.0
466	Sinclair	CHE	0	53	2.5
467	Dublin	COV	0	0	2.7
468	Shaw	COV	1	56	2.2
469	Burrows	COV	0	61	2.2
470	Haworth	COV	0	15	1.5
473	Edworthy	CRY	0	37	1.5
474	Gordon	CRY	0	57	2.0
475	Mascal	CRY	0	14	1.0
476	Tuttle	CRY	0	12	2.0
477	Linighan	CRY	0	44	2.0
478	Roberts	WIM	10	63	3.0
479	Hreidarsson	CRY	0	40	1.0
480	Stimac	DER	0	47	3.5
483	C Powell	DER	1	68	1.8
484	Laursen	DER	1	47	1.5
485	Eranio	DER	0	66	2.5
486	Phelan	EVE	0	10	1.9
487	Short	EVE	1	45	3.0
488	Watson	EVE	1	55	2.7
489	Unsworth	WH	6	57	3.0
490	Hinchcliffe	SHEF	5	65	2.5
493	Bilic	EVE	0	16	4.0
494	Kelly	LEE	1	81	3.6
495	Wetherall	LEE	4	74	2.5
496	Molenaar	LEE	2	48	2.5
497	Dorigo	LEE	0	0	1.2
498	Robertson	LEE	0	53	2.5
499	Walsh	LEI	0	65	2.2
500	Whitlow	BOL	0	29	1.2
503	Elliott	LEI	1	94	1.2
504	Watts	LEI	0	0	1.6
505	Wright	LIV	0	10	3.0
506	Ruddock	LIV	0	2	3.0
507	Harkness	LIV	6	47	1.2
508	Kvarme	LIV	0	44	2.5
509	Bjornebye	LIV	0	52	2.5
530	Matteo	LIV	0	53	3.0
533	McAteer	LIV	0	45	3.7
534	G Neville	MAN	0	57	4.2
535	P Neville	MAN	0	75	4.2
536	Irwin	MAN	0	67	2.5
537	Pallister	MAN	0	69	3.0
538	May	MAN	0	5	3.5
539	Johnsen	MAN	0	55	3.5
540	Silva	MAN	0	0	3.5
543	Albert	NEW	5	40	4.1
544	Howey	NEW	0	29	3.7
545	Peacock	NEW	5	31	3.0
546	Barton	NEW	4	43	3.3
547	Beresford	SOU	1	56	2.2
548	Blondeau	SHEF	0	5	2.2
549	Nolan	SHEF	0	60	1.9
550	Atherton	SHEF	5	61	1.9
553	Walker	SHEF	5	64	2.2
554	Stefanovic	SHEF	4	26	1.6
555	Newsome	SHEF	0	63	1.5
556	Monkou	SOU	0	49	1.7
557	Dodd	SOU	1	72	2.5
558	Benali	SOU	1	58	1.5
559	Van Gobbel	SOU	0	1	1.5
560	Lundekvam	SOU	0	44	1.2
563	Scales	TOT	0	21	3.4
564	Campbell	TOT	1	59	4.0
565	Calderwood	TOT	0	50	2.9
566	Austin	TOT	0	0	2.2
567	Edinburgh	TOT	0	19	1.6
568	Carr	TOT	0	64	1.2
569	Mabbutt	TOT	0	19	1.5
570	Dicks	WH	0	0	3.5
573	Rieper	WH	0	12	2.7
574	Hall	WH	0	0	3.0
575	Potts	WH	6	35	1.5
576	Ferdinand	WH	6	51	2.5
577	Impey	WH	0	33	2.2
578	Turner	WH	0	0	2.0
579	Perry	WIM	10	61	4.0
580	Cunningham	WIM	10	68	1.5
583	Thatcher	WIM	0	31	2.0
584	McAllister	WIM	0	1	1.5
585	Kimble	WIM	10	44	1.5

MIDFIELDERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
600	Platt	ARS	0	24	2.5
603	Parlour	ARS	1	35	2.4
604	Pereira	ARS	0	0	2.7
605	Vieira	ARS	1	25	4.5
606	Overmars	ARS	1	68	6.0
607	Mendez Rodriguez	ARS	0	1	2.0
608	Taylor	AV	4	46	1.9
609	Townsend	AV	0	-3	3.2
630	Draper	AV	1	46	4.1
633	Marcelle	BAR	0	10	2.0
634	Bullock	BAR	2	25	1.2
635	Redfearn	BAR	0	73	1.5
636	Eaden	BAR	5	28	1.2
637	Tinkler	BAR	0	22	1.0
638	Duns	BLA	0	0	3.0
639	Wilcox	BLA	0	35	3.0
640	McKinlay	BLA	1	13	2.2
643	Sherwood	BLA	1	47	3.4
644	Flitcroft	BLA	1	18	3.0
645	Frandsen	BOL	2	41	1.5
646	Thompson	BOL	2	54	2.5
647	Pollock	BOL	0	27	1.2
648	Sellars	BOL	0	35	1.5
649	Gullit	CHE	0	0	4.4
650	Di Matteo	CHE	1	30	5.0
653	Wise	CHE	0	31	3.7
654	Newton	CHE	0	9	2.4
655	P Hughes	CHE	0	7	1.0
656	Babayaro	CHE	0	7	3.0
657	Telfer	COV	0	34	1.8
658	Richardson	SOU	1	28	2.4
659	McAllister	COV	0	17	3.0
661	Salako	BOL	0	19	2.4
663	Johansen	COV	0	0	2.0
664	Simpson	DER	0	1	1.2
665	Asanovic	DER	0	9	3.0
666	D Powell	DER	0	6	1.2
667	Van Der Laan	DER	0	6	1.6
668	Dailly	DER	1	17	1.2
669	Hunt	DER	0	8	2.0
670	Parkinson	EVE	0	0	1.8
673	Grant	EVE	0	14	2.2
674	Farrelly	EVE	0	12	2.0
675	Stuart	EVE	0	26	2.5
676	Speed	NEW	1	49	2.7
677	Bowyer	LEE	2	34	3.0
678	Wallace	LEE	0	70	1.8
679	Sharpe	LEE	0	0	3.5
681	Ribeiro	LEE	1	47	1.5
683	Haaland	LEE	0	32	2.5
684	Parker	LEI	0	28	2.5
685	Taylor	LEI	0	0	1.6
686	Izzett	LEI	1	48	2.1
687	Lennon	LEI	0	33	3.2
688	Guppy	LEI	1	54	1.7
689	Barnes	NEW	0	46	3.0
690	Redknapp	LIV	0	35	5.2
693	McManaman	LIV	0	101	5.9
694	Thomas	LIV	0	12	3.0
695	Leonhardsen	LIV	0	39	4.0
696	Giggs	MAN	0	65	7.4
697	Beckham	MAN	0	76	7.0
698	Keane	MAN	0	14	7.0
699	Butt	MAN	0	31	7.0
700	Poborski	MAN	0	10	3.5
703	Lee	NEW	0	31	3.6
704	Batty	NEW	0	14	3.8
705	Gillespie	NEW	0	43	2.5
706	Beardsley	BOL	0	21	2.0
707	Ketsbaia	NEW	1	-32	2.0
708	Blinker	SHEF	0	0	2.5
709	Hyde	SHEF	0	7	1.8
730	Whittingham	SHEF	0	39	1.7
733	Carbone	SHEF	6	67	3.0
734	Magilton	SHEF	0	15	2.4
735	Slater	SOU	0	2	1.5
736	Oakley	SOU	0	29	1.2
737	Anderton	TOT	0	7	6.0
738	Fox	TOT	1	54	3.5
739	Howells	TOT	0	11	3.2
740	Ginola	TOT	0	58	3.5
743	Sinton	TOT	0	19	3.0
744	Nielsen	TOT	0	28	2.5
745	Williamson	EVE	0	15	2.0
746	Mi Hughes	WIM	2	41	2.0
747	Moncur	WH	1	15	2.5
748	Bishop	WH	0	3	2.5
749	Berkovic	WH	1	67	2.5
750	Lomas	WH	1	23	3.0
753	Jones	WIM	0	21	2.8
754	Earle	WIM	2	35	3.1
755	Ardley	WIM	2	42	2.0
756	Fear	WIM	0	1	2.0
757	C Hughes	WIM	0	14	2.0

STRIKERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
800	Bergkamp	ARS	0	97	7.5
803	Wright	ARS	0	62	7.2
804	Boamorte Pereira	ARS	0	7	2.0
805	Yorke	AV	1	53	6.7
806	Joachim	AV	5	44	2.4
807	Collymore	AV	0	57	8.1
808	Wilkinson	BAR	0	6	1.2
809	Hendrie	BAR	0	10	1.5
830	Hristov	BAR	6	21	1.5
833	Sutton	BLA	4	102	4.5
834	Gallacher	BLA	5	92	3.0
835	Dahlin	BLA	5	25	4.0
836	McGinlay	BOL	0	5	3.2
837	Blake	BOL	2	79	2.7
838	Zola	CHE	0	67	9.0
839	Vialli	CHE	0	54	3.5
841	Ma Hughes	CHE	6	47	4.4
843	Tore Andre Flo	CHE	1	54	3.0
844	Dublin	COV	4	101	3.5
845	Whelan	COV	5	37	3.0
846	Huckerby	COV	1	78	3.5
847	Soltvedt	COV	1	28	1.5
848	Lightbourne	COV	0	0	1.5
849	Dyer	CRY	0	37	2.0
850	Freedman	CRY	0	2	2.0
853	Ndah	CRY	0	3	1.0
854	Shipperley	CRY	0	41	2.0
855	Ward	BAR	2	58	2.5
856	Sturridge	DER	1	56	5.0
857	Wanchope	DER	1	74	3.0
858	Ferguson	EVE	1	60	6.5
859	Barmby	EVE	3	38	4.5
860	Deane	LEE	0	0	3.0
863	Lilley	LEE	0	8	1.5
864	Hasselbaink	LEE	6	76	3.0
865	Claridge	LEI	0	10	3.5
866	Heskey	LEI	1	50	5.5
867	Fowler	LIV	0	59	9.5
868	Berger	LIV	0	20	4.0
869	Owen	LIV	0	103	2.5
870	Scholes	MAN	0	51	6.0
873	Cole	MAN	0	88	6.2
874	Solskjaer	MAN	0	50	7.0
875	Sheringham	MAN	0	68	5.0
876	Nevland	MAN	0	0	2.0
877	Shearer	NEW	1	11	10.0
878	Asprilla	NEW	0	20	7.4
879	Ferdinand	TOT	0	30	5.0
880	Tomasson	NEW	0	31	4.0
883	Gudjonsson	NEW	0	0	2.0
884	Humphreys	SHEF	0	2	2.5
885	Booth	SHEF	1	52	3.5
886	Hirst	SOU	1	66	3.5
887	Le Tissier	SOU	1	63	7.0
888	Evans	SOU	0	6	1.5
889	Ostenstad	SOU	1	49	3.2
890	Armstrong	TOT	4	29	5.9
893	Iversen	TOT	0	7	4.0
894	Hartson	WH	0	91	5.0
895	Kitson	WH	0	27	3.5
896	Holdsworth	BOL	2	18	3.5
897	Ekoku	WIM	0	26	4.0
898	Gayle	WIM	1	24	4.0
899	Euell	WIM	1	25	1.5

MANAGERS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WK	OV	VALUE (£m)
900	Wenger	ARS	3	57	7.5
903	Little*	AV	0	30	5.0
904	Wilson	BAR	0	31	2.0
905	Hodgson	BLA	0	48	5.0
906	Todd	BOL	3	30	2.5
907	Gullit*	CHE	0	45	4.5
908	Strachan	COV	3	43	3.0
909	Coppell*	CRY	0	23	2.0
930	Smith	DER	0	45	2.0
933	Kendall	EVE	0	33	2.5
934	Graham	LEE	0	48	3.5
935	O'Neill	LEI	0	40	4.5
936	Evans	LIV	3	54	7.0
937	Ferguson	MAN	3	63	9.0
938	Dalglish	NEW	0	35	7.0
939	Pleat*	SHEF	0	9	1.0
940	Jones	SOU	0	40	2.5
943	Francis*	TOT	0	13	4.5
944	Redknapp	WH	0	44	3.3
945	Kinnear	WIM	0	35	4.5

*currently out of management

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Tyre change puts Ferrari back in the race

Motor racing

By David Tremayne
in Buenos Aires

THE BELLS tolled in Maranello on Sunday night, and Italy saluted the resurgence of Ferrari after Michael Schumacher had slaughtered McLaren's world championship leader, Mika Hakkinen, with his crushing victory in the Argentinian Grand Prix in Buenos Aires.

It was a success few believed possible a fortnight earlier, when Hakkinen left Schumacher a minute in his wake in Brazil.

Much of the credit for the extraordinary turnaround in Ferrari's fortunes has been given to Goodyear, after the tyre giant rushed through a wider front tyre with which to counter the runaway success of Bridgestone in the first two rounds of a world championship that at one time seemed predestined for McLaren. But David Coulthard, with whom Schumacher collided as they fought for the lead, was thoughtful as he looked back on his own disastrous race.

"I'm surprised that Ferrari have reduced the gap to us as much and as quickly as they have," he said. "And it's interesting that the tyre gain for Ferrari has not done anything similar for Williams."

McLaren, stunned by the speed of Ferrari's recovery, had few excuses. "The low ambient temperatures, which are somewhat unusual for this time of the year, contributed to the narrowing of the performance gap to our competitors," the group managing director, Ron Dennis said.

Dennis had anticipated that higher temperatures would affect the Goodyears more adversely than they would the harder compound Bridgestones which Hakkinen and Coulthard had chosen for the race.

While the Ferraris surged into competitive state, to the point where Schumacher was able to split the McLarens in qualifying, Williams continued to struggle. Both Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen quite clearly had their hands full fighting with tail-happy cars.

"In normal circumstances if you have a car that oversteers, any further grip at the front, such as the new Goodyears provided, would just make the oversteer worse", Frentzen said. "But our car is complicated and that is not necessarily the case. It is a very difficult car to balance properly and that is part of our problem. When you are trying to dial out oversteer, it is too easy to go straight through to understeer instead, without hitting that nice neutral handling balance in the middle."

These are dark times for the team which won its record ninth constructors' championship in 1997.

Frentzen finished only ninth after all manner of troubles, while Villeneuve, the world champion, failed to finish after colliding with Coulthard as they fought over sixth place.

Williams have only eight points in the constructors' championship, compared to 21 for Ferrari and 30 for McLaren.

With McLaren humbled, Schumacher's joy knew no bounds. Italy loves him again after his fall from grace in Jerez last October.

Coulthard, for one, believes that the battle is now well and truly engaged, and expects no respite for the rest of the season. "Imola is next and that's Ferrari's home circuit", he said. "You'd be a fool not to expect them to be very competitive there." Though he and Coulthard disagreed on the allocation of blame for their collision on the fifth lap of Sunday's race, the German agreed with the Scot's assessment of this situation. "The new engine we raced in Brazil was perfect today, and we have more modifications to come. At Imola we can be even stronger."

Ferrari's success in Argentina left in tatters McLaren's aspirations for the clean sweep of the season's races that it came so close to achieving a decade ago. Disappointing for Dennis, but for the sake of the world championship battle it could scarcely have been more timely.

The Ferrari team, boosted by improved Goodyear tyres, attend to Michael Schumacher at a pit stop on his way to victory in Buenos Aries on Sunday
Photograph: AP

Rydell takes early advantage over Menu in rivalry that should run and run

By Nick Phillips
in Thruxton

VOLVO'S Rickard Rydell came through strong opposition from Renault's Alain Menu and the vagaries of the weather to take an early lead in the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship with a win and a second place in the first two rounds here yesterday.

Menu, the defending champion, won a gripping second round after what he described as "one of my best races ever", overcoming visibility problems caused by fuel dropping from rival cars smearing his windscreen, and surviving a heavy sleet shower at the end of the race on the way. The race was the first of the series' new compulsory-pit-stop Feature rounds and Menu reckoned on this occasion the stops had suited him well.

"I lost the lead as the stop was slow because the screen was cleaned," the Swiss said. "But it made the win possible, because then I could then see to go quickly again."

Menu had already caught and passed Rydell, who took pole, earlier in the race and after the pit stops repeated the feat to score a great win and show that he will again be a title contender.

Rydell had earlier won the shorter Sprint race at a canter, despite a poor start which left him third into the first corner. Honda's James Thompson led the first two laps as Rydell found his way past Jason Plato's Renault, but on lap three the Swede took the Volvo into a lead which soon became a comfortable one.

Plato and Thompson then fought hard over second place until lap seven, when the Renault sliced past and then held second place to the chequered flag, leaving Thompson with third place – a position he also occupied in round two.

Interest then centred on the progress of Menu, who had started near the back after he had his time in the new One-Shot Showdown qualifying disallowed after he slid sideways and missed a chicane.

Rydell and Menu have now set themselves up as title favourites, and although the Swede is still cautiously talking his chances down, Menu is prepared to admit that he feels he has "a good chance" of taking back-to-back championship wins.

Stolle puts early dent in home hopes

Tennis

AUSTRALIA'S Sandon Stolle dashed the hopes of the home support yesterday when he knocked Japan's Davis Cup hero, Takao Suzuki, out of the first round of the Japan Open.

Stolle swept to a 6-2, 6-3 win over the twice national champion Suzuki, who earlier this month upset Brett Steven to lead Japan to a surprise victory over New Zealand in the second round of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania group one contest.

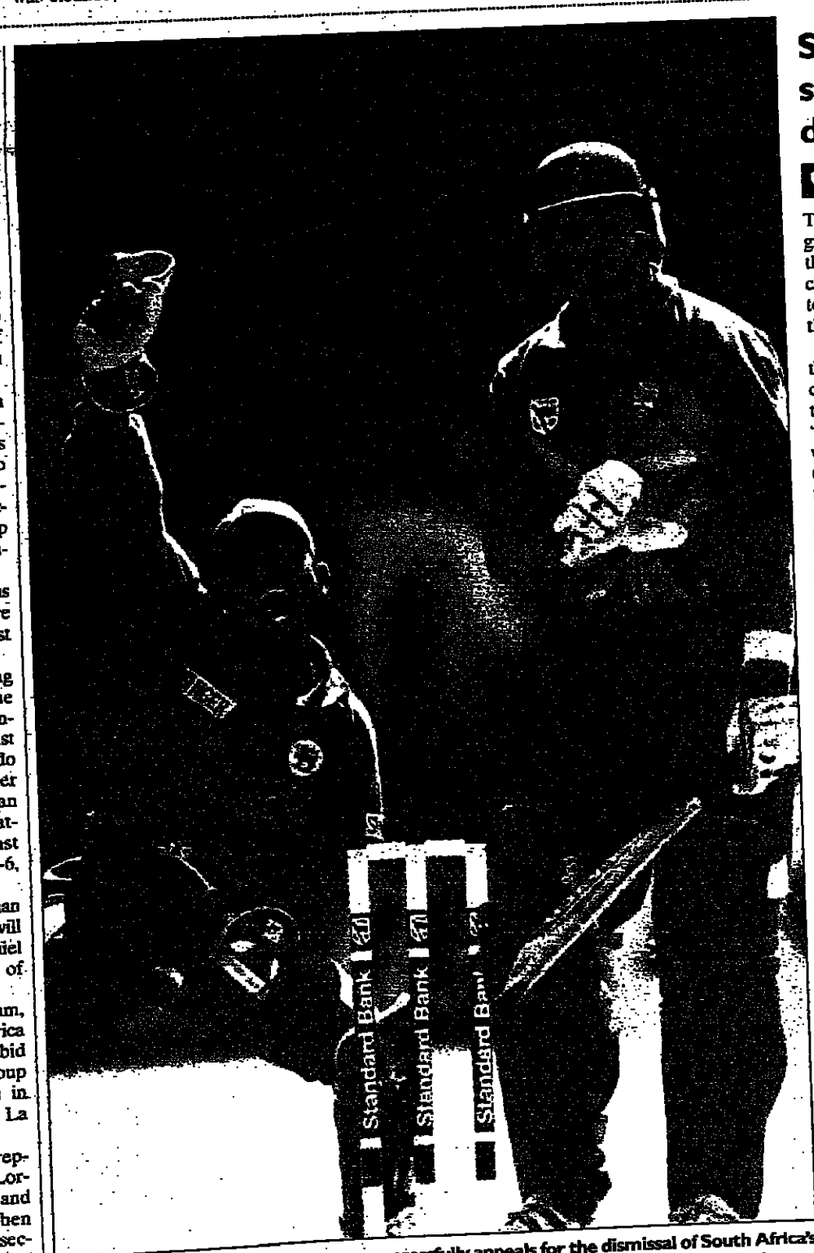
"There are countless reasons for my defeat, but I made more mistakes than usual in my first return shots," said Suzuki.

Elsewhere on the opening day of the tournament, the American No 11 seed, Jan-Michael Gambill, eased past qualifier Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 6-3, 6-2, while Rainer Schuttler beat fellow German Christian Vinck, who defeated Michael Chang in last week's Indian Open, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

The third seed Tim Henman has a first-round bye and will meet either Canadian Daniel Nestor or Neville Godwin of South Africa.

● Britain's Fed Cup team, currently in the Europe/Africa group one, will begin their bid for a place in the World Group when they meet Portugal in their first Pool B match in La Manga, Spain, tomorrow.

Britain, the fifth seed, represented by Karen Cross, Lorna Woodroffe, Julie Pullin and Louise Latimer, must then face Madagascar and the second seeds Poland. Two victories would see Britain through to the next stage on Friday.



Sri Lanka's Romesh Kaluwitharana unsuccessfully appeals for the dismissal of South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs in the one-day international yesterday
Photograph: Reuters

Season should start on time despite floods

Cricket

THE Cambridge University groundstaff look to have won the battle to enable the first-class season to start at Fenner's today less than 48 hours after the ground was flooded.

"I thought on Sunday that there would be no chance of any cricket for another week," said the groundsman John Moden. "But the hard work has been worth it and now, barring another storm, we should start on time. The pitch might be a little slow but at least it will be playable."

Cambridge University will field one of their strongest batting line-ups for years for the opener against Northamptonshire as they boast four players on county staffs – Ed Smith and Will House, of Kent, skipper Anurag Singh, of Warwickshire, and Sussex's James Pyemont.

Northamptonshire will be without batsmen David Roberts and Russell Warren, who are struggling with wrist problems, while off-spinner Jeremy Snape is unfit with a hamstring injury.

Oxford University include five Blues in their squad for the game against Sussex at The Parks starting today. They are the new captain, James Fulton, last year's skipper, Mark Wagh, Byron Byrne, Larry Buchanan and David Mather.

Chris Adams, the ex-Derbyshire batsman, and Wasim Khan, the former Warwickshire opener, make their Sussex debuts as the visitors field the team who will start their Championship season against Lancashire on Friday.

Adams will captain the side in the three-day match and bat at three, while Wasim will open the innings with Toby Peirce.

Today's fixtures

Football

(7.30 unless stated)

UEFA CUP SEMI-FINALS SECOND LEG
Lazio (1) v Atletico Madrid (0) ———
Sp Moscow (1) v Inter (2) (4.30) ———

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Leicester v Southampton (7.45) ———

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION
QPR v Oxford Utd (7.45) ———

SECOND DIVISION
Bournemouth v Walsall (7.45) ———
Colchester v Chesterfield (7.45) ———

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Glentoran v Coleraine; Glenavon v Ballymena; Linfield v Crusaders; Omagh Town v Portadown. First Division: Bangor v Limavady Utd; Dungannon Swifts v Ballyclare; Larne v Newry.

RYMAN LEAGUE Second Division: Metropolitan Police v Tooting & Mitcham. Third Division: Camberley v Dorking; Epsom & Ewell v Wingate & Finchley.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Division: Moor Green v Evesham Utd.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP Semi-finals: Evenwood v Tow Law.

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Manchester Utd v Birmingham (7.0) *(at Old Trafford)*. First Division: Middlesbrough v Wolverhampton (7.0); Oldham v West Bromwich (7.0). Second Division: Burnley v York (7.15). League Cup semi-final: Sheffield Utd v Wrexham (7.0).

Cricket

FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (First day of three, 11.30 start): Cambridge University v Northamptonshire (Fenner's); Oxford University v Sussex (The Parks).

Basketball

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP Play-offs, first leg: Manchester Giants v Greater London Leopards (8.0). Second leg: Birmingham Bullets v Derby Storm (8.0); Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7.30); Sheffield Sharks v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30).

Higgins 'a true champion'

Snooker

AFTER his 9-8 win over Stephen Hendry in the final of the British Open on Sunday John Higgins will be hoping Jimmy White can do the same in the first round of the World Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, next week. Should White upset Hendry and Higgins then go on to lift the game's most coveted trophy the 22-year-old Scot will end his compatriot's eight-year hold on the world No 1 position.

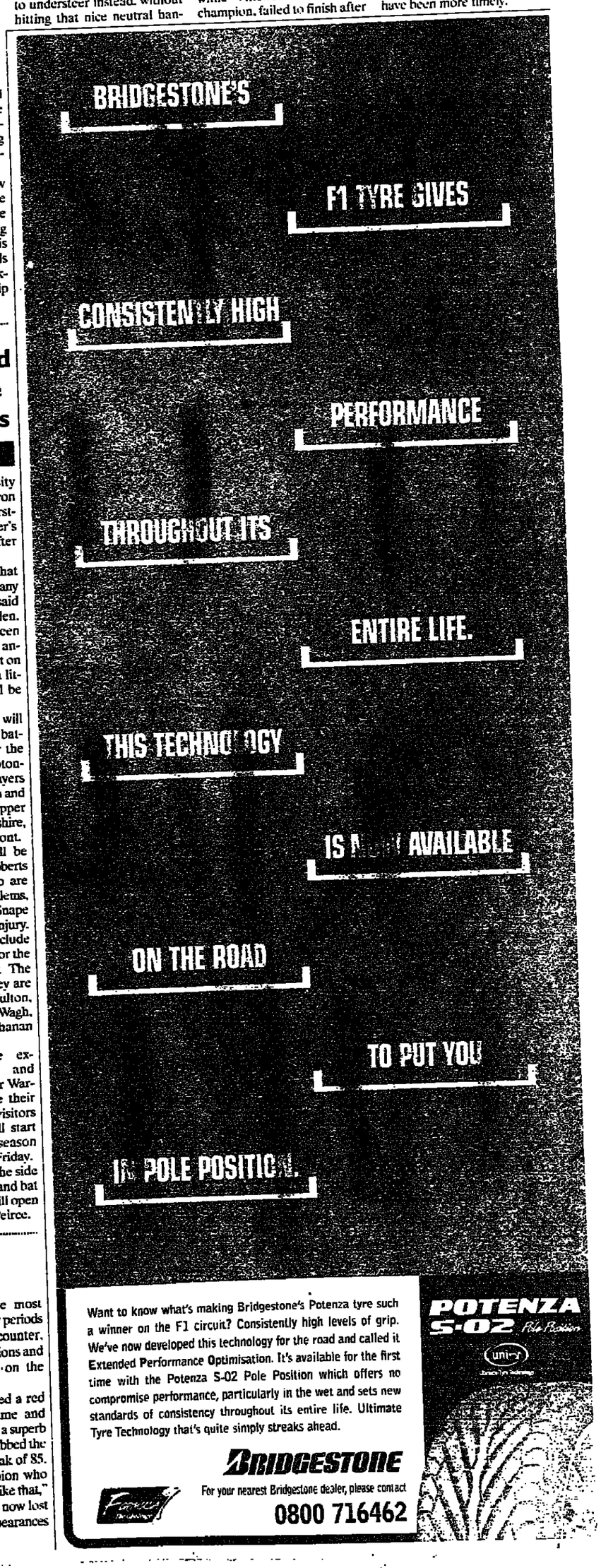
"It's very special to get the better of Stephen on a big occasion like this," declared Higgins, who collected a winner's cheque of £60,000. It was the 10th title of his six-year professional career. "This result has given me a great boost, especially coming just before The Crucible."

Higgins, winner of the German Open and Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge this season as well as being runner-up in four other leading events, was playing catch-up for most of the final.

Hendry looked the most likely winner for lengthy periods of the high-quality encounter, leading on seven occasions and stealing three frames on the black.

Ahead 8-7 he missed a red early in the 16th frame and Higgins drew level with a superb run of 102 and then grabbed the final frame with a break of 85.

"It's a true champion who seizes his opportunity like that," said Hendry, who has now lost six of his last seven appearances in a final.



FA Carling Premiership: Strugglers fail to find the passion as the fight for survival takes another turn for the worse for Palace

Everton battle to find their real voice

By Glenn Moore

Wimbledon	0
Everton	0

RELEGATION struggles call for persistence, determination and a refusal to give up in the face of apparently impossible tasks. All of those qualities were needed by spectators at Selhurst Park yesterday but no one showed greater fortitude than the Clubcall reporter.

It was tough enough watching Wimbledon and Everton scramble a further point apiece towards safety but commentating on it for 90 minutes must have been akin to playing for Doncaster.

Fortunately Clubcall had one of their most experienced operators present but it would have taken the voice of Richard Burton, the descriptive powers of John Arlott and the garrulousness of David Mellor to keep all but the most committed callers listening to the bitter end.

Not that either club will be unhappy with that. Entertainment is low down the list of priorities when Premiership survival is at stake. With only Palace having won fewer home games than Wimbledon, and Bolton fewer away matches than Everton, both sides were content with a stalemate.

Indeed, for 75 minutes you might have suspected it had been arranged, so dull was the encounter. It was not just short of shots, it was so short of passion that only one booking was required.

Fortunately a batch of substitutes added vim to the game and the last 15 minutes saw more action than the first hour and a quarter with both sides going close to scoring.

Neither did but, with results in their favour elsewhere, each had a good day. Everton, with three of their last four matches at home, drop to 16th but are now four points clear of the relegation zone. Wimbledon, who will not be unhappy at having four of their last five away from Selhurst, remain 13th but are seven points ahead of the bottom three.

Should, as seems likely, both clubs stay up, each have much to do in the summer. Wimbledon, for whom Joe Kinnear admitted this has been a transitional season, will be hoping they can hold on to their manager and that he is able to find a goalscorer with the £6m apparently available to him.

Given Wimbledon's deficiencies in that department it was a bit rich when the public address system announced gloatingly at the end of the game "and Doncaster have scored a goal".

Howard Kendall may be manager at what was once one of the Bank of England clubs but he can only dream of such investment. Though he has introduced some promising young players Everton are desperately short of real quality.

"We always go out looking for three points," he said, "but maybe one point helps you to escape from the bottom three. We want to play well but the results are the most important thing at the moment."

On the plus side Kendall does appear to have found a worthy replacement for Neville Southall in Thomas Myhre. The Norwegian made an exceptional save from Carl Leaburn's first-minute header as the game made a misleadingly bright start, and usually looked in command.

Ahead of him Everton worked hard and produced what decent football there was. However, their attacks usually foundered when they reached Mikaël Madar, who provided conclusive proof that not all foreign players are blessed with good technique.

In the Frenchman's defence he did come closest to scoring with a 22nd-minute header. Neil Sullivan did well to both parry this and block Craig Short's follow-up. Duncan Ferguson, with two weak shots, and Gavin McCann, with two stronger ones, also tested Sullivan but, for the most of the game he was untroubled.

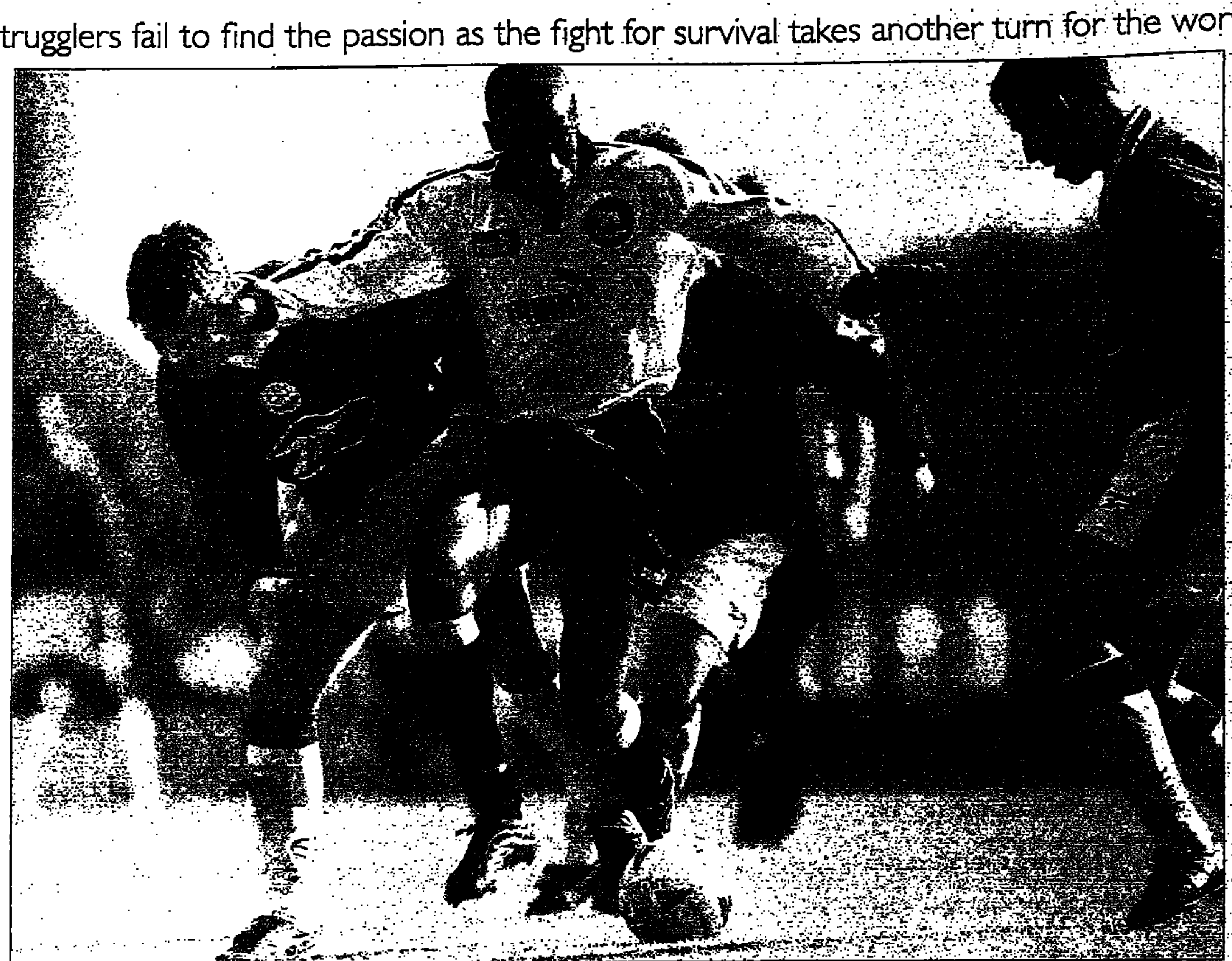
After Leaburn's early effort Myhre had even less to do as Wimbledon, now with just one goal in five matches, failed to get another shot on goal until the last dozen minutes. Then Alan Kimble had a 20-yard effort before the lively Andy Clarke struck the outside of the post from a tight angle.

This was their third goalless home game in succession and, by most accounts, the other two were worse. But the end is in sight, the Clubcall man has only one more Wimbledon home game left and, since that is against Tottenham, he might even get a "goooooooooool" to talk about.

Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan; Ardley, Blackwell, Perry, Thatcher; Roberts, C Hughes (Euell, 82), Kimble, M Hughes; Leaburn (Clarke, 72) Gayle. **Substitutes not used:** Heald (gk), McAllister, Francis.

Everton (4-4-2): Myhre; O'Kane, Short, Tiler, Ball; McCann, Hutchison, Barmby (Oster, 87), Beagrie (Farrelly, 67); Ferguson, Madar (Spencer, 67). **Substitutes not used:** Bilic, Gerrard (gk).

Referee: K Burge (Tonypandy).



Derby County's Paulo Wanchope (second left) holds off Bolton Wanderers' Hasney Aljofree at Pride Park yesterday Photograph: Barry Coombs/Empics

Bumbling Bolton go for a Burton

By Jon Culley

Derby County	4
Bolton Wanderers	0

BOLTON'S bold attempt to escape from the clutches of the relegation zone came to an abrupt and painful end at Pride Park, where a Derby side previously in woeful form were invited to believe they might yet be playing in Europe next season.

A run of three wins in five matches had given Bolton hope that they could defy the odds and stay in the Premiership after occupying a bottom-three place since January.

But everything fell apart for Colin Todd's team yesterday, when they lost goalkeeper Keith Branagan to a first-half injury and saw Derby sweep to an unassailable position even before half-time in the face of defending that, at times, was inept.

Deon Burton, who celebrated his recall at the expense of Dean Sturridge with a double strike, Paulo Wanchope and Francesco Baiano inflicted what may prove to be catastrophic damage to Bolton's survival prospects. Their success in not conceding a further goal was of scant consolation.

Given that Derby had not scored in four Premiership matches before this one, Bolton were unprepared for what hit them after Wanchope had put the home side ahead in the 27th minute, when the Costa Rican took the ball from Burton with his back to goal before beating Branagan from close range.

When Branagan limped off with a knee injury seven minutes later, his replacement, Gavin Ward, could have hardly had a more torrid introduction. His first touch, save for taking a goal-kick, was to retrieve the ball from the net after Robin Van der Laan had headed Gary Rowett's deep cross back across goal for Burton to smash home Derby's second off the underside of the crossbar.

His second was a failed attempt to take the ball off Burton's head near the edge of the penalty area, a mistake that allowed the Jamaican forward to claim an easy second goal three minutes after his first. Until yesterday, the former Portsmouth striker had managed only one goal in a Derby shirt, in a 5-2 win over Sheffield Wednesday last September.

Should Bolton survive, Ward may prefer not to face Derby next season. He had been in Bolton's goal when Jim Smith's side drew 3-3 at the Reebok Stadium in December, which had, until yesterday, been the occasion of Baiano's last Premiership goal.

The Italian, a dynamo during Derby's pre-Christmas surge, has suffered a dip in form since but with Bolton's defence handing out presents as if it were still that time of year, he was able to end his barren run in first-half stoppage time, sidefooting home off a post after Burton had spotted his run.

With Todd's angry words ringing in their ears, Bolton did make a better fist of things in the second half, in which the former England winger John Salako, a deadline-day signing from Coventry, replaced Chris Fairclough. But there was no coming back against a home side content to coast towards only a third win since the end of January and revive their chance of Uefa Cup qualification.

Derby County (4-3-3): Poom; Delap (Kozluk, 72), Rowett, Dailly, C Powell; Eranio (Solis, 84), Van der Laan, Bohinen; Burton (Sturridge, 81), Baiano, Wanchope. **Substitutes not used:** Hoult (gk), Hunt.

Bolton Wanderers (3-5-2): Branagan (Ward, 33); Todd, Fish (Bergsson, 72), Fairclough (Salako, h-t); Cox, Frandsen, Sheridan, Thompson, Aljofree; Blake, Taylor. **Substitutes not used:** Phillips, Giallanza.

Referee: D Gallagher (Banbury).

Wednesday relieved as Magilton's long wait ends

By Phil Andrews

Sheffield Wednesday	1
West Ham United	1

IT HAS taken Jim Magilton seven months to get on the score sheet since joining Wednesday from Southampton, but in the light of yesterday's other results his goal may have earned the point that ensures another season of Premiership football at Hillsborough.

It is largely poor away form that has kept Wednesday looking anxiously over their shoulders this late in the season, but a rare home defeat and another anxious week seemed in prospect until the Northern Ireland international struck on the hour.

West Ham, with a Uefa Cup place in their sights, had dominated the first half with confident, flowing football. But once Wednesday realised they were allowed to use the full width of the pitch it was the visitors who were happy to settle for a draw.

West Ham survived an early scare when David Unsworth sliced clearance fell to Dejan Stefanovic and Ian Pearce was perfectly placed to head his shot off the line.

West Ham scored from their next attack when John Hartson, in what may be his last appearance for some time after his sending-off on Saturday, disputed possession of a through ball with his Brazilian marker Emerson Thomel. Both of them fell to the ground, but Hartson was quicker to his feet and laid the ball back from the byline for Eyal Berkovic to score with a shot into the far corner across the face of Kevin Pressman's goal after only seven minutes.

From that moment Frank Lampard and Steve Lomas assumed control of midfield, making good use of the flanks to get around the Wednesday back four. West Ham pressed forward and would have increased their lead if Samassi Abou's header had not hit Andy Hinchcliffe on the line.

Wednesday's imported ball players glittered intermittently, but the deft flicks of Benito Carbone and Paolo Di Canio and the gangling runs of Petter Rudi rarely developed into coherent moves.

After the interval Dejan Stefanovic and Di Canio started to exploit the left flank and the tide began to turn. The equaliser came when Di Canio fed Hinchcliffe down the left and although Rudi made a hash of his cross, the ball fell into the path of Magilton, who scored from the edge of the box.

As Wednesday pressed for the winner, Bernard Lama plucked Andy Booth's cross out of the air with Rudi unmarked on the far post, and a Booth header flew narrowly wide. West Ham hung on, but two points from six over Easter means they still have a lot to do before getting the passports out.

Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Pressman; Barrett, Emerson, Walker, Hinchcliffe; Carbone, Magilton, Stefanovic, Rudi (Pembridge, 84); Booth, Di Canio. **Substitutes not used:** Whittingham, Clarke (gk), Humphreys, Oakes.

West Ham United (3-4-1-2): Lama; Pearce, Ferdinand, Unsworth; Lazaridis, Lomas, Lampard, Impey; Berkovic; Abou (Omoyinmi, 75), Hartson. **Substitutes not used:** Potts, Moncur, Forrest (gk), Mean.

Referee: N Barry (Scunthorpe).

Evans' inspired gamble pays off

By Dave Hadfield

Liverpool	2
Crystal Palace	1

DAVID THOMPSON'S first-ever goal for Liverpool ensured that the dregs of Crystal Palace's Premiership existence continued to drain away.

The paradox yesterday however, was that, even as they sank with little trace, Palace and their supporters were the more buoyant for much of the afternoon at Anfield.

Armed with the knowledge that it would need some unlikely victories and not merely the odd poached draw to provide them with an escape route, Palace played with three up front and went about their task with some intermittent gusto.

When Marcus Bent chipped an equaliser over Brad Friedel in the 72nd minute, it seemed they would get away from Anfield with a point – not enough to make any difference to their forlorn fight, but a fair commentary on Liverpool's own shortcomings.

But, with six minutes left, Steve McManaman, who had been through one of his less effective matches, pulled the ball across from the right and the diminutive substitute Thompson, brought in immediately after the equaliser, lunged in for the winner.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said afterwards: "I suppose that's an inspired substitution. I took off Danny Murphy because he was feeling the pace of two tough games over the holiday weekend, having played so well for us at Manchester United.

"We needed fresh legs and a bouncy character, and David certainly fits the bill. He did brilliantly for the goal."

One thing that could be said for Palace in this particular performance is that they await their impending fate with relatively good humour.

Apart from the positive outlook of yesterday's team, the corner of Anfield reserved for travelling supporters had its moments, particularly when the announcement of "Operation Anfield Exercise" triggered an impromptu display of physical jerks.

The crowd's safety theme had a more sombre aspect, with a minute's silence and a choreographed tableau in memory of the 96 who died at Hillsbrough nine years ago. There was little uplifting about the current team's efforts thereafter.

Palace, in fact, made the early running, Friedel having to push a good angled drive from Bent around his post before Liverpool began to exert some measure of control.

Their opening goal, when it came in the 29th minute, was a messy one. Danny Murphy, the other half of a lightweight striking partnership with Michael Owen, put over a corner that Palace could not clear adequately in several attempts and, when Steve Harkness put it back into the area, Oyvind Leonhardsen fired in from close range.

Although Murphy and Owen showed some sporadically nice touches and Paul Ince put a header wide from a promising position early in the second half, there was little drive or urgency about Liverpool's tempo with Jamie Redknapp having a notably unimpressive game.

All the same, it was worse retribution for a lacklustre display than anyone at Anfield expected when Palace came back at them, their substitute Dean Gordon battling away down the left and Simon Rodger's cross being met and converted by Bent despite the narrow angle.

Even after Thompson's goal, Palace could still have salvaged a point, Friedel saving acrobatically from another substitute, Sasa Curcic. It would have made little difference to their long term prospects, but they deserved something from this match every bit as much as Liverpool.

Liverpool (4-4-2): Friedel; Jones, Matteo, Babb, Harkness (Kvarme, 62); McManaman, Ince, Redknapp, Leonhardsen; Owen, Murphy (Thompson, 72). **Substitutes not used:** James (Gk), Berger, Carragher.

Crystal Palace (3-4-3): Miller; Edworthy, Warhurst, Hreidarsson; Lombardo, Brolin (Curcic, 75), Fullarton (Gordon, 62), Rodger; Jansen, Shipperley, Bent. **Substitutes not used:** Nash (Gk), Padovano, Ismail.

Referee: G Barber (Kingston).

Football results and tables

FA Carling Premiership

Derby (4) 4	Bolton (0) 0
Wanchope 27	29,126
Burton 37, 40	
Baiano 45	
Blackburn (0) 1	Arsenal (4) 4
Gallacher 51	Bergkamp 2
28,212	Parlour 7, 14
	Anelka 42
Liverpool (1) 2	Crystal Palace (0) 1
Leonhardsen 29	Bent 72
Thompson 85	43,007
Newcastle (1) 2	Barnsley (0) 1
Andersson 40	Fjortoft 50
Shearer 86	36,534
Sheffield Wed (0) 1	West Ham (1) 1
Magilton 59	Berkovic 7 28,036
Tottenham (0) 1	Coventry (0) 1
Berti 63	Dublin 85
33,463	
Wimbledon 0	Everton 0
15,131	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	34	20	7	7	64	25	67
Arsenal	32	19	9	4	56	23	66
Liverpool	33	16	10	7	57	36	58
Chelsea	33	17	3	13	62	38	54
Leeds	34	16	6	12	50	37	54
Blackburn	33	14	9	10	54	45	51
Derby	33	14	7	12	48	41	49
West Ham	33	14	7	12	45	41	49
Aston Villa	34	14	6	14	42	43	48
Coventry	33	11	12	10	39	39	45
Leicester	33	11	11	10	39	33	44
Southampton	33	13	4	16	41	45	43
Wimbledon	33	10	11	12	31	34	41
Sheff Wed	34	11	8	15	46	61	41
Newcastle	33	10	9	14	31	39	39
Everton	34	9	11	14	33	47	38
Tottenham	34	9	9	16	34	52	36
Bolton	34	7	13	14	31	53	34
Barnsley	34	10	4	20	36	76	34
Crystal Palace	33	6	8	19	23	59	26

Leading scorers

	Lge	FA	CC	Eur	Oth	Tot
Cole (Man Utd)	13	5	0	5	0	23
Hartson (West Ham)	15	2	5	0	0	22
Sutton (Blackburn)	17	2	1	0	0	20
Dublin (Coventry)	15	4	1	0	0	20
Owen (Liverpool)	15	0	4	1	0	20
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	14	3	2	1	0	20

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Finn Harps 0 St Patrick's Athletic 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Patrick's Ath (P30, Pts59); 2 Shelbourne (28-57); 3 Shamrock Rovers (29-50); 4 Bohemians (29-46).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Ards 0 Portadown 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Cliftonville (P33, Pts61); 2 Linfield (33-59); 3 Portadown (34-57); 4 Glentoran (33-56). **First Division:** Distillery 1 Carrick 0.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Billingham Synthonia 1 Billingham Town 0; Dunston Federation 2 RTM Newcastle 5; Guisborough 4 Northallerton 2; Seaham Red Star 3 Consett 1; Shildon 3 Jarrow Roofing 0; South Shields 2 Penrith 2. **Postponed:** Tow Law v Crook

Nationwide Football League First Division

Bury (1) 2	Bradford (0) 0
Ellis 41, Daws 53	6,570
Crewe (1) 2	Stoke (0) 0
Westwood 16	5,759
Lightfoot 43	
Man City (0) 0	Birmingham (0) 1
26,569	Adebola 90
Norwich (2) 5	Huddersfield (0) 0
Fleming 12	16,550
Adams pen 30	
Roberts 56, 57	
Fuglestad 90	
Nottm Forest (2) 3	Wolves (0) 0
Johnson 32	22,863
Van Hooijdonk 39	
Campbell 90	
Port Vale (0) 0	Charlton (0) 1
9,373	Mendonca pen 73
Portsmouth (0) 0	Ipswich (1) 1
15,040	Johnson 8
Reading (0) 0	Middlesbro (0) 1
14,501	Branca 9
Middlesbrough's Craig Hignett sent off, 90	
Swindon (1) 1	Sheffield Utd (0) 1
Walters 33	Marcelo 81
8,956	
Tranmere (2) 3	Stockport (0) 0
C Jones 7, 42	8,070
Mellon 51	
WBA (2) 3	Sunderland (2) 3
Hughes 2, 89	Quinn 17, 50
Kilbane 11	Phillips 29 20,191
Sunderland's Michael Gray sent off, 37	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	43	27	8	8	73	39	89
Sunderland	42	23	12	7	79	46	81
Charlton	43	24	9	10	77	49	81
Middlesbrough	42	24	9	9	70	39	81
Ipswich	42	19	14	9	66	40	71
Sheff Utd	41	18	16	7	60	44	70
Birmingham	43	17	16	10	55	35	67
Wolverhampton	42	17	10	15	49	45	61
Stockport	43	17	7	19	64	64	58
West Brom	43	15	12	16	45	52	57
Oxford Utd	42	16	8	18	57	55	56
Bradford	43	14	14	15	44	51	56
Crewe	42	16	5	21	48	59	53
Swindon	43	14	10	19	41	63	52
Tranmere	42	13	12	17	48	50	51
Huddersfield	43	13	11	19	49	65	50
Norwich	43	12	13	18	46	67	49
Bury	43	10	19	14	41	54	49
Port Vale	43	12	10	21	51	60	46
QPR	42	10	16	16	47	58	46
Man City	43	11	11	21	49	52	44
Portsmouth	43	11	10	22	45	61	43
Stoke	42	10	13	19	40	62	43
Reading	43	11	9	23	38	73	42

Second Division

Blackpool (0) 1	Brentford (2) 2
Taylor 81	Hutchings 3
3,926	Aspinall pen 13
Bristol City (0) 1	Watford (0) 1
Edwards 68	Lee 64
19,141	
Fulham (2) 5	Carlisle (0) 0
Peschisolido 8, 43, 50	9,243
Moody pen 72	
Thorpe 76	
Carlisle's Tony Hopper sent off, 72	
Grimsby (1) 1	Bristol Rovers (2) 2
Donovan pen 13	Hayles 39, 42
5,484	
Millwall (1) 1	Plymouth (1) 1
Hockton 4	Corazzin 25
5,436	
Northampton (0) 2	Preston (1) 2
Sampson 72	Ashcroft 45
Seal 82	Macken 90
5,664	
Oldham (0) 0	Wycombe (0) 1
4,305	Stallard 66
Southend 0	Gillingham 0
6,151	
Wigan (2) 5	Burnley (0) 1
Barlow 31	Little 47
Lowe 43, 87	4,926
Warne 77	
Halford 80	
Wrexham (0) 1	York (0) 2
Wilson 65	Thompson pen 67
5,231	Cresswell 81
York's Neil Tolson sent off, 70	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City (P)	43	24	10	9	66	35	82
Watford (P)	43	22	15	6	63	39	81
Fulham	43	20	10	13	56	38	70
Grimsby	43	18	14	11	54	35	68
Wrexham	43	17	14	12	51	49	65
Gillingham	43	18	11	14	50	46	65
Bristol Rovers	43	18	10	15	65	61	64
Northampton	43	16	16	11	45	36	64
Chesterfield	42	15	15	12	43	39	60
Blackpool	43	16	9	18	54	63	57
Bournemouth	42	15	12	15	51	48	57
Wycombe	43	13	16	14	49	52	55
Wigan	42	15	9	18	60	66	54
Preston	43	14	12	17	51	52	54
York	43	13	15	15	49	56	54
Oldham	42	13	14	15	55	51	53
Walsall	42	14	11	17	42	46	53
Millwall	43	14	11	18	42	52	53
Luton	42	12	14	16	51	53	50
Plymouth	43	12	13	18	53	64	49
Brentford	43	11	16	16	47	65	49
Burnley	42	11	12	19	47	63	45
Carlisle	43	12	8	23	54	67	44
Southend	42	11	9	22	45	73	42

Third Division

Brighton (1) 1	Mansfield (0) 1
Reinelt 33	Christie 83 2,704
Colchester (2) 4	Hull (1) 3
Gregory 6	Boyack 24
Lock 13	McGinty 48
Dunne 79	Darby 71
Duguid 90	4,700
Darlington (0) 1	Chester (0) 0
Ellison 65	1,901
Doncaster (0) 1	Notts County (0) 2
Messer 90	Strodder 56
2,485	Finnan 64
Exeter (1) 1	Camb Utd (0) 0
Birch 13	3,527
Exeter's Steve Flack sent off, 54	
Hartlepool (1) 1	Lincoln City (1) 1
Beech 22	Alcide 30 1,997
Leyton Orient (1) 2	Shrewsbury (0) 3
Maskell 31	Steele 55, 67, 81
Griffiths 53	4,956
Shrewsbury's Austin Berkley sent off, 31	
Macclesfield (2) 2	Barnet (0) 0
Sodje 10, Power 25	4,171
Peterborough (0) 2	Cardiff (0) 0
Castle 48, Inman 67	4,756
Scarborough 0	Scunthorpe 0
2,427	
Scunthorpe's Russell Wilcox sent off, 61	
Swansea (0) 3	Rochdale (0) 0
Appleby 61, 65	2,854
Walker 74	
Torquay (0) 1	Rotherham (1) 2
Bedeau 67	White 31
3,963	Roscoe 50

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts Co (P)	43	27	11	5	72	39	92
Macclesfield	43	20	13	10	55	40	73
Torquay	43	20	11	12	64	53	71
Colchester	43	20	10	13	69	56	70
Scarborough	43	19	12	12	65	56	69
Barnet	43	18	12	13	59	47	66
Peterborough	43	18	12	13	62	45	66
Lincoln City	42	17	14	11	51	47	65
Rotherham	43	15	18	10	60	54	63
Leyton Orient	42	17	11	14	56	42	62
Exeter	42	15	15	12	65	53	60
Scunthorpe	42	16	12	14	51	50	60
Mansfield	43	14	16	13	60	53	58
Shrewsbury	43	15	12	16	59	59	57
Chester	43	16	9	18	54	56	57
Cambridge Utd	43	13	17	13	57	53	56
Hartlepool	43	11	21	11	57	51	54
Darlington	43	14	10	19	54	69	52
Rochdale	43	15	6	22	49	52	51
Swansea	43	13	10	20	48	57	49
Cardiff	43	9	22	12	47	48	49
Hull	43	9	7	27	50	79	34
Brighton	43	6	16	21	34	60	34
Doncaster (R)	43	4	7	32	30	109	19

GM Vauxhall Conference

Cheltenham (0) 1	Hereford (1) 2
Eaton 79	Brough 13
3,039	Hargreaves 85
Farnborough (2) 4	Gateshead (0) 0
Laidlaw 27	565
Rowlands 45, 81, pen 87	
Halifax (1) 4	Southport (0) 3
Paterson 42	Ross 49
Hulme 50	O'Reilly 67, 69
Hanson 82, 84	4,701
Halifax's Kieran O'Regan sent off, 60	
Hednesford (0) 0	Morecambe (1) 1
1,066	Mayers 12
Leek Town (0) 2	Woking (0) 0
McAuley 54, 59	812
Northwich (0) 1	Kidderminster (1) 1
Walters pen 48	Arnold pen 4
976	
Slough (1) 1	Yeovil (0) 1
Abbott 38	Stott 63 912
Stalybridge (1) 2	Rushden (1) 4
Burke 21	Collins 36, 69, 80
Highfield 90	Cooper 47 952
Stalybridge's Lee Trundle sent off, 7	
Stevenage (1) 2	Dover (0) 2
Trebble 38	Alford 52
Perkins 79	Godden 85
1,951	
Telford (0) 1	Kettering (0) 1
Palmer 86	Pearson 84
1,041	
Welling (1) 2	Hayes (0) 0
Dolby pen 45	665
Horton 64	
Welling's Dereck Brown sent off, 37	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	38	24	11	3	69	34	83
Rushden	37	22	3	12	73	50	69
Woking	38	19	8	11	63	40	65
Morecambe	37	19	8	10	69	57	65
Hereford	38	18	11	9	53	42	65
Hednesford	39	16	12	11	53	45	60
Cheltenham	34	17	8	9	48	37	59
Slough	36	16	8	12	49	40	56
Northwich	38	12	15	11	55	55	51
Hayes	38	14	8	16	55	50	50
Yeovil	36	14	7	15	58	53	49
Welling	36	13	9	16	53	58	48
Southport	35	12	11	12	48	44	47
Stevenage	38	12	11	15	55	56	47
Kidderminster	39	11	13	15	54	58	46
Kettering	36	12	10	14	45	49	46
Dover	34	12	8	14	51	60	44
Farnborough	37	11	6	20	49	61	39
Telford	38	8	12	18	45	69	36
Leek Town	35	8	11	16	44	59	35
Gateshead	38	7	9	22	41	78	30
Stalybridge	37	7	7	23	43	79	28

Scottish League Third Division

Albion (2) 5	Berwick (0) 0
Dickson pen 15	225
Watters 35, 68	
Ross 58	
Melvin 78	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alloa	32	20	4	8	66	36	64
Arbroath	31	18	6	7	59	34	60
Ross County	32	15	10	7	60	34	55
East Stirling	32	16	5	11	43	36	53
Albion	30	11	5	14	48	60	38
Queen's Park	32	9	9	14	37	47	36
Berwick	31	8	11	12	38	45	35
Montrose	32	9	8	15	47	68	35
Cowdenbeath	32	11	2	19	28	49	35

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Accrington Stanley 1 Bamber Bridge 1; Alfreton 1 Boston Utd 2; Blyth 3 Altrincham 3; Chorley 2 Colwyn Bay 0; Emley 1 Frickley 0; Guiseley 2 Runcorn 2; Leigh RMI 2 Lancaster 0; Marine 1 Barrow 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Barrow (P37, Pts76); 2 Boston Utd (38-72); 3 Leigh RMI (37-69); 4 Runcorn (38-68); 5 Emley (38-68). **First Division:** Bradford PA 5 Farsley 2; Buxton 0 Belper 2; Congleton 1 Great Harwood 1; Droylsden 2 Ashton 1; Flixton 0 Trafford 1; Gretna 0 Whitley Bay 1; Harrogate Town 1 Whitby 1; Lincoln Utd 1 Witton Albion 0; Stocksbridge PS 0 Eastwood Town 3

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Cambridge City 0 Burton Albion 1; Crawley Town 1 Ashford 2; Hastings 0 Dorchester 0; Merthyr 4 Forest Green 0; Rothwell 1 Gresley 0; Salisbury 2 Gloucester 3; Sittingbourne 1 St Leonards 3; Tamworth 3 King's Lynn 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Merthyr (P38, Pts80); 2 Forest Green (38-79); 3 Burton Albion (39-67); 4 Dorchester (39-66). **Midland Division:** Brackley 0 Racing Club Warwick 1; Bilston 2 Stourbridge 0; Blakenall 4 Shepshed Dynamo 3; Ilkeston 3 Grantham 2; Raunds 2 Hinckley Utd 1; Solihull Borough 1 Paget Rangers 3; Stafford Rangers 0 Sutton Coldfield 3; Wisbech 5 Corby 0. **Southern Division:** Chelmsford 1 Baldock 0; Cinderford 2 Newport (Gwent) 3; Cirencester 1 Trowbridge 1; Erith & Belvedere 2 Dartford 1; Fareham 0 Newport (IoW) 5; Fleet 2 Fisher 5; Margate 1 Tonbridge 0; Weston-super-Mare 0 Clevedon 0; Weymouth 4 Bashley 1; Yate 2 Witney 3.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Atherton LR 0 Clitheroe 0; Blackpool Rovers 3 Nantwich 0; Burscough 4 Hasingden 0; Chadderton 2 Holker Old Boys 2; Glossop North End 5 Darwen 1; Prescot Cables 1 Atherton Collieries 0; Salford 5 Maine Road 2; Vauxhall GM 3 Mossley 0; Warrington 0 St Helens 1

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Beckenham 1 Greenwich Borough 1; Cray 3 Swanley Furness 1; Crockenhill 0 Faversham 0; Hythe 2 Canterbury 4; Lordswood 1 Chatham 0; Ramsgate 2 Deal 4; Slade Green 0 VCD Athletic 3; Tunbridge Wells 1 Folkestone Invicta 2; Whitstable 1 Herne Bay *(champions)* 1.

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury 0 Chesham 0; Basingstoke 2 Oxford City 1; Bishop's Stortford 2 Heybridge 2; Carshalton 1 Sutton Utd 5; Dagenham & Redbridge 2 Purfleet 2; Harrow Borough 0 Hendon 0; Hitchin 1 St Albans 1; Kingstonian 2 Dulwich 1; Walton & Hersham 1 Yeading 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Kingstonian (P38, Pts79); 2 Sutton Utd (39-73); 3 Boreham Wood (35-69); 4 Dagenham & Redbridge (38-64). **First Division:** Berkhamsted 1 Barton 0; Grays 2 Billericay 1; Leatherhead 2 Whyteleafe 0; Maidenhead Utd 1 Hampton 1; Molesey 3 Croydon 2; Romford 0 Leyton Pennant 0; Staines 0 Chertsey 1; Thame 3 Abingdon Town 0; Wokingham 0 Aldershot 3; Worthing 0 Bognor Regis 2. **Second Division:** Banstead 1 Horsham 2; Barking 0 Tilbury 3; Bedford 1 Leighton 0; Bracknell 4 Hungerford 1; Canvey Island 3 Witham 0; Chalfont St Peter 2 Marlow 0; Cheshunt 2 Edgware 2; Wealdstone 1 Northwood 1; Windsor & Eton 7 Egham 1; Wivenhoe 2 Braintree 3. **Third Division:** Clapton 1 Ford Utd 3; Hertford 3 Aveley 1; Lewes 0 Harlow 1.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 6 Cemaes Bay 0; Barry Town 2 Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff 1; Connah's Quay 3 Flint 2; Conwy 2 Rhyl 1; Ebbw Vale 6 Haverfordwest 1; Newtown 1 Caersws 1; Porthmadog 3 Welshpool 1; Rhayader Town 1 Aberystwyth 5; TNS Llansantffraid 2 Caernarfon Town 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Barry Town (P36, Pts98); 2 Newtown (34-72); 3 Cwmbran (35-70).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Barnstaple 1 Bridport 3; Bideford 1 Torrington 0; Calne 1 Chard 0; Elmore 0 Taunton 6; Mangotsfield 0 Brislington 0; Tiverton 5 Chippenham 0.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Bury Town 1 Newmarket 0; Ely 4 Soham 3; Felixstowe Port & Town 2 Woodbridge 1; Halstead 2 Tiptree 1; Harwich & Parkeston 1 Clacton 1; Histon 1 Warboys 0; Stowmarket 0 Diss 1; Sudbury Wanderers 2 Sudbury Town 1; Watton 0 Fakenham 2; Wroxham 4 Lowestoft 1.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston 3 Holbeach 0; Bourne 1 Spalding 3; Desborough 2 Wellingborough 2; Long Buckby 0 Ford Sports 1; Mirrlees Blackstone 0 Stamford 2; Northampton; Potton 1 Stotfold 1; S & L Corby 3 Yaxley 0; St Neots 0 Eynesbury 0; Wootton 3 Kempston 0. **Postponed:** Spencer v Cogenhoe.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First Division: Lymington 1 Brockenhurst 0; Andover 2 Whitchurch 0; BAT 1 Totton 1; Bemerton Heath Harl 3 Downton 1; Christchurch 3 Romsey 1; Cowes Sports 1 East Cowes Vics 1; Eastleigh 4 Aerostructures 0; Portsmouth RN 1 Gosport Borough 0; Thatcham 0 Newbury 0; Wimborne 3 Bournemouth 1.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Chichester City 0 Portfield 1; Eastbourne Town 2 Langney Sports 3; Hassocks 1 Burgess Hill 1; Horsham YMCA 1 Redhill 2; Littlehampton 5 Arundel 2; Ringmer 4 Hailsham 0; Saltdean 1 Peacehaven & Telscombe 1; Selsey 0 Pagham 0; Shoreham 2 Wick 2; Whitehawk 2 Mile Oak 1.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
HT	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	1
FT	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	3	3	1

Summary: 13 score draws; 3 no-score; 33 home wins

هكذا من الأصل

Nationwide League: City Ground set for Premiership football, Sunderland struggle and Middlesbrough revive while Watford step up

Premier ambition ambushed by Hughes

By Phil Shaw

West Bromwich Albion	3
Sunderland	3

SUNDERLAND'S prospects of taking the second automatic promotion place, which now appears their most realistic route back to the Premiership, suffered a setback at The Hawthorns yesterday when Lee Hughes earned West Bromwich a point with only 75 seconds of a pulsating contest remaining.

There was a certain symmetry to the carrot-topped striker's goal, for he had also fired Albion ahead 70 seconds into the match. In between, the home side saw a two-goal lead wiped out before the interval, by which time Sunderland were *depleted by the dismissal of* Michael Gray.

The 10 men seized the *initiative through Niall Quinn's* second goal but they eventually succumbed to mounting Albion pressure, and now hold second place ahead of Charlton and Middlesbrough only on the basis of having scored more goals.

While Premier passions maybe driving Sunderland's season, much of their defending was strictly Nationwide League standard. Last Friday they squandered a 2-0 lead at home to Queen's Park Rangers, *and they carried on where they* left off as Albion ran amok in the first 12 minutes.

Hughes, unmarked in a crowded box, drove in the first goal. Lionel Perez then saved athletically from the scorer and Steve Nicol had a fierce volley blocked, but Albion broke through again following a sweeping move along their right flank.

Sean Flynn, having marked Paul Gascoigne out of the match against Middlesbrough, now revealed his constructive side with a fine pass to Andy McDermott. The full-back's cross was met by a firm header by Kevin Kilbane.

Within six minutes Sunderland found the net for the 27th successive First Division fixture. Albion appealed in vain for offside as Niall Quinn controlled Allan Johnston's cross on his chest before spoiling Chris Adamson's hopes of a clean sheet on his home debut.

Ten minutes later, Sunderland were level. McDermott and Shaun Murphy made a hash of Nicky Summerbee's centre and Kevin Phillips pounced for his 29th goal of the season.

A lively duel between Gray and James Quinn spilled over *into malevolence in the 37th* minute. The Sunderland defender, who had dispossessed *his* opponent with an excellent tackle, foolishly kicked out in response to provocative contact by the Albion winger and was sent off for violent conduct.

The referee, Mr Lomas, further contributed to the drama by pulling a muscle in first-half stoppage time. His senior assistant, a Mr Millership, had been in charge only five minutes when Sunderland stole in front.

A pass by the outstanding Lee Clark found Niall Quinn in *splendid isolation*. The Republic of Ireland striker lobbed the ball home via Adamson's out*stretched palm for his 15th* goal this season.

Albion may have won only three of 20 League games under Denis Smith, a former Sunderland manager, but they summoned sufficient spirit to take a point. Hughes, fastening on to Nicol's pass, angled a low drive across Perez.

West Bromwich Albion (4-4-2): Adamson; McDermott, Beesley (Murphy, 24), Carbon, Van Blerk; J Quinn, Flynn, Nicol, Kilbane; Hughes, Hunt (Sneekes, 86). **Substitute not used:** Coldicott.
Sunderland (4-4-2): Perez; Makin, Holloway (Craddock, 66), Williams, Gray; Summerbee, Clark (Rae, 66), Ball, Johnston; N Quinn (Dichio, 75), Phillips.
Referee: E Lomas (Manchester); B Millership.

Andy Johnson scores the first of Nottingham Forest's three goals against Wolves at the City Ground yesterday Photograph: John Sumper /Empics

Forest thrive at Wolves' expense

By Phil Casey

Nottingham Forest	3
Wolverhampton Wanderers	0

NOTTINGHAM FOREST took a step closer to automatic promotion yesterday with a win that makes Wolves' chances of qualifying for the play-offs all but mathematically impossible.

Forest's manager, Dave Bassett, however, is not celebrating a return to the Premiership quite yet, despite the fact that his side are now eight points clear at the top of the First Division and have just three games left to play.

"I think the boys were delighted with the result because it puts pressure on the other teams, but we were certainly not drinking champagne in the dressing-room," he said.

Forest's celebratory bubbles will surely not remain on ice much longer. Andy Johnson gave them the lead after 32 minutes, when he met a Chris Bart-Williams' free-kick and turned the ball into the net from eight yards. *Pierre Van Hooijdonk* scored the second six minutes before half-time, heading in *Kevin Campbell's deflected* shot. Campbell himself, cementing a tireless performance, scored a third in injury time after running on to Bart-Williams' through ball.

Wolves were overrun in the first half, but did improve after the break. The second 45 minutes, however, including a nervy miss by substitute Dougie Freedman after an hour, could still not disguise a poor overall display and the prospect of another season of First Division football.

The Wolves manager, Mark McGhee, acknowledged as much, *but added:* "There's nothing left to play for, but there's certainly a lot of work to do. We owe it to the other teams to make sure we keep going because the teams we're playing are in relegation trouble."

Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Beasant; Bonalair, Rogers, Hjelde, Chettle; Johnson, Stone, Gemmill, Bart-Williams; Van Hooijdonk, Campbell. **Substitutes not used:** Woan, Armstrong, McGregor.
Wolverhampton Wanderers (3-5-2): Segers; Sedgley, Williams, Curle; Muscat, Slater, Froggatt, Simpson, Osborn; Bull (Freedman, 57), Goodman. **Substitutes not used:** Claridge, Emblen.
Referee: P R Richards (Preston).

Charlton prosper as rivals stumble

Round-up

CHARLTON ATHLETIC capitalised on Sunderland's failure to beat West Bromwich yesterday by winning 1-0 at Port Vale. Clive Mendonca's 73rd-minute penalty put them level on points with Sunderland and Middlesbrough, the two North-east giants they are competing against for automatic promotion from the First Division along with Nottingham Forest.

The Londoners were fortunate, however, because Vale *wasted several chances before* Charlton's Danny Mills was brought down by efforts of Allen Tankard and Jan Jansson, and Mendonca scored from the spot.

With Vale battling against relegation, the tension boiled over into a fracas after a Stewart Talbot shot was blocked on the line by Mills.

The Brazilian striker Marcelo struck in the 81st minute to earn Sheffield United a 1-1 draw at Swindon and move them closer to a place in the promotion play-offs. Marcelo rose *unmarked at the far post to send* in a looping header to cancel out the headed goal by Mark Walters in the 33rd minute.

Portsmouth's manager, Alan Ball, said his side were lucky to escape with a 1-0 beating by Ipswich at Fratton Park, where David Johnson's 27th goal of the season gave Ipswich the points. The striker also missed a penalty as Ipswich stepped up their promotion push.

Ball, who is to be offered a five-year contract to stay at Fratton Park even if he fails to *save the club from relegation,* said: "We were lucky that we are still in with a shout because Ipswich should have beaten us by a bigger margin."

Watford's manager, Graham Taylor, shared a glass of wine with his opposite number, John Ward, after his side's 1-1 draw with Bristol City at Aston Gate meant they would be joining City in the First Division next season. City remain one point clear at the top with three games to go.

Jason Lee, Watford's former Nottingham Forest striker, *opened the scoring in the 64th* minute but Bristol equalised within four minutes through Robert Edwards.

Taylor said: "It's now a three-match championship and the most important thing today was that we didn't lose. Had that happened John's team would have been right in the box seat."

Ward said mere promotion would not be satisfy him. "I want my players to get their medals as winners of the division to have them as mementoes of a great season," he said.

Adebola strikes late to blow City's cover

By Derick Allsop

Manchester City	0
Birmingham City	1

DELE ADEBOLA produced a late goal unbefitting much that had gone before to sustain Birmingham's thoughts of a place in the play-offs and deepen the gloom at Maine Road.

Manchester City appeared to have eked out another, poten*tially crucial, point in the scram*ble for First Division survival when, two minutes from the end, Adebola set off on a gallop from the half-way line, brushing aside all feeble resistance, and expertly clipped his shot inside the far post.

Joe Royle's team summoned a desperate rally deep into stoppage time and Ian Bennett saved splendidly from Shaun Goater, but in truth Manchester had invited this catastrophe.

Birmingham had ambled aimlessly through the first half before realising their opposition would be incapable of matching a semblance of imaginative, cohesive football.

Manchester had their opportunities, including a Gerard Wiekens shot which thundered against the Birmingham crossbar, but began spurning other chances in the ninth minute.

Michael Johnson's error allowed in Jamie Pollock and the hapless midfield player managed only a feeble effort straight at Bennett. Wiekens was more positive when Birmingham failed to clear Kevin Horlock's free-kick and his 20-yard volley bounced down off the underside of the bar. Lee Bradbury was left clear by Goater's flicked header yet dragged his shot across goal. After the break the visitors made up their minds to be more assertive, with an inevitable consequence.

Manchester, pinning their faith on a central back three, were given scant flexibility by their central midfield players, who generally sat too deep.

Horlock apart, no one had the poise or perception to create something out of the ordinary. Pollock, carrying the banner into battle as the club's latest captain, provided the predictable, clenched fist gestures, but none of this will compensate for his lack of basic footballing acumen and by the end of the afternoon the home fans were beginning to see through his flimsy cover. What, you wonder, would Georgi Kinkladze make of it all?

Trevor Francis shuffled his pack and switched to a back five for the second half and Martin O'Connor should have given Birmingham the lead in the 48th minute. Instead, he miscued as he met Adebola's diagonal pass and pushed the ball wide. Adebola made spectacular atonement on his behalf.

Manchester City (5-3-2): Margetson; Edghill, Jobson (Brannan, 72), Wiekens, Vaughan, Horlock; Bishop (Brown, 66), Pollock, Whitley; Goater, Bradbury (Rosler, 79).
Birmingham City (4-4-2): Bennett; Bass (Purse, h-t), Bruce, Johnson, Charlton; McCarthy, O'Connor, Marsden, Hughes (Robinson, h-t); Ndlovu (Forster, 81), Adebola.
Referee: T Heilbron (Newton Aycliffe).

Branca is Boro's matchwinner

By Kieren Daley

Reading	0
Middlesbrough	1

MIDDLESBROUGH kept their place among the First Division's front-runners with their second Easter victory and in the process pushed Reading nearer to the Second Division.

The only goal came from Boro's former Internazionale striker Marco Branca, who scored a hat-trick against Bury on Saturday.

He gained his side their first away win in the League since 1 February and the only downbeat note for Middlesbrough was the sending-off of Craig Hignett in injury time for his second bookable offence.

Paul Gascoigne played well for an hour before he seemed *to run out of steam* and was replaced by Hignett.

It took just eight minutes for *Middlesbrough to establish* their superiority with a superbly worked goal. Gascoigne fed *Merson who quickly passed to Branca.* With his *marker Phil* Parkinson nowhere to be seen Branca shot low into the corner.

Minutes later he almost added a second when he shot just over the bar from a Steve *Vickers flick-on.*

Reading's brightest spell came at the start of the second half and for the first time in the game Middlesbrough's defence had a shaky moment or two.

Vickers put his own keeper under pressure with a back-pass which Mark Schwarzer had to juggle on his knee before hurriedly kicking clear.

Paul Merson was given a great chance to make the game safe for Middlesbrough in the 67th minute but he shot against the legs of the Reading goalkeeper Scott Howie.

Schwarzer pulled off a magnificent save to tip Paul Brayson's header over the bar *10 minutes from time and keep* the points safe for Boro.

Reading: Howie, Primus (Dawes, 84), Parkinson, Crawford, Kelly, Gray, Brayson, Caskey, McIntyre (Morley, 82), O'Neill (Meaker h-t), Lambert.
Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Fleming, Harrison, Vickers, Festa, Townsend, Mustoe, Gascoigne (Hignett, 59), Branca, Merson (Maddison, 84), Armstrong (Ricard, 71).
Referee: B Knight (Orpington).

Hoddle ready to reveal authentic look against Portugal

GLENN HODDLE will give the biggest clues yet to his World Cup thinking today, when he unveils his squad for next week's friendly match against Portugal at Wembley.

The England coach has just seven weeks and four matches before he has to name his final 22 for France. After injuries turned last month's game in Switzerland into a reserve team run-out, Hoddle will want to get *a more authentic-looking squad* together for the meeting with the Portuguese.

Last time out, *Hoddle's* choice was severely limited by injury, with David Seaman, Ian Wright, Paul Gascoigne, Les Ferdinand, Tony Adams, Ray Parlour and six Manchester United players unavailable. Apart from Wright, all have returned to action since, with Gascoigne making four first-*team appearances* for his new club Middlesbrough.

Hoddle suggested after the *disappointing 1-1 draw in Berne* that a number of players wearing an England shirt that night had *failed to take their opportunity.* At first glance that might have been perceived as bad news for Steve McManaman, who gave another ineffective display, and also Sheffield Wednesday's *Andy Hinchcliffe,* one of the few players publicly singled out for criticism.

However, it would be a sur*prise if either* was omitted and, likewise, Jamie Redknapp should not suffer for his diffi*cult baptism as sweeper in the* Under-21 defeat. Michael Owen's red card against Man*chester United on Friday* will not count against him either, although Hoddle may well be *tempted to have a quiet* word.

But, more importantly, Hoddle may have to show he has the teeth to insist his players turn *up this time. Before the Swiss* game, the coach said he was considering summoning every *player in realistic World Cup* consideration to attend a get-together before the Portugal *match, even if they are not fit* enough to play. Such a directive could well bring him into con*flict with the club managers.*

One man desperate for an invitation will be Spurs keeper Ian Walker, just back in goal *after a three-month lay-off,* and hoping to get the opportunity to exploit Tim Flowers' injury *absence to press his claims* behind Seaman.

● Reg Brealey, the former *Sheffield United chairman,* has decided to withdraw his offer to take a majority shareholding in *St Mirren Football Club.*

Sporting Digest

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 4 Chicago Cubs 1; Atlanta 3 Philadelphia 2; Pittsburgh 7 Florida 3; NY Mets 6 Milwaukee 4; Cincinnati 11 Colorado 4; San Diego 4 Arizona 2; San Francisco 2 St Louis 1; Los Angeles 7 Houston 6 (10 innings); Baltimore 6 Detroit 3; Anaheim 12 Cleveland 1.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 8 Seattle 7; NY Yankees 7 Oakland 5; Texas 3 Toronto 1; Minnesota 7 Kansas City 2; Tampa Bay 4 Chicago White Sox 1.

Basketball

NBA: Miami 82 New York 81; Charlotte 88 Detroit 86; Seattle 103 Houston 95; Atlanta 91 Washington 81; New Jersey 116 Toronto 109; Indiana 93 Boston 87; Phoenix 129 Vancouver 106.

Boxing

Barry Jones, the World Boxing Organisation super-featherweight champion, has been told he may never fight again after failing a brain scan. The Cardiff-based, 23-year-old has been told there has been a deterioration from a previous scan. The promoter Frank Warren has arranged for an independent scan, but a second opinion has already been sought with the result unchanged.

Cricket

Leicestershire completed an undefeated tour in Barbados with an 80-run win over Pickwick at the Kensington Oval. They made 289 for 8 in 49 overs with Aftab Habib hitting a century. Pickwick were dismissed for 209, with Jon Dakin taking 5 for 43 and James Ormond 3 for 54.

Sri Lanka beat South Africa by six wickets in the triangular one-day series at St Georges Park on Monday.

TRIANGULAR ONE-DAY SERIES: South Africa 231 all out (49.5 overs). Sri Lanka 232-4 (46.4) Sri Lanka won by six wickets.

Football

Fears of a row between players and the Dutch Royal Football Association over World Cup bonuses appear over and *Edgar Davids,* out-of-favour since *Euro 96,* is now expected to be in the Netherlands' World Cup squad.

The Cologne striker Ioan Vladoiu will not play for *Romania in the World Cup.* Vladoiu is the third player – after the Stuttgart striker Florin Raducioiu and Mönchengladbach midfielder Ionut Lupescu – to refuse to join the *squad.*

Golf

WORLD GOLF RANKINGS: 1 E Els (SA) 12.30; 2 T Woods (US) 11.86; 3 G *Norman* (Aus) 11.07; 4 D Love III (US) 9.17; 5 J Leonard (US) 8.81; 6 C Montgomerie (GB) 8.77; 7 N Price (Zim) 8.62; 8 D Duval (US) 8.377; 9 Mark *O'Meara* (US) 8.375; 10 M Ozaki (Jap) 8.00. Selected: 14 L Westwood (GB) 6.29.

Hockey

EUROPEAN MEN'S CUP WINNER'S CUP A DIVISION ('s Hertogenbosch) *Final Day:* Fifth to eighth matches: Royal Orée (Bel) 0 Teddington 3; Harvestehuder (Ger) 2 Stroitel (Blr) 3. Third to fourth match: Egara (Sp) 2 Pocztowec (Pol) 1. Final: Den Bosch (Neth) 4 Ekaterinburg (Rus) 0.

EUROPEAN MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP A DIVISION (Terrassa) Final Day: Fifth to eighth matches: Bremins Brest (Bela) 8 Lenarganvey (Irl) 1; Bologna (It) 0 Grunwald (Pol) 4. Third to fourth match: Lille (Fr) 0 Uhlenhorst (Ger) 4. Final: Amsterdam 1 Atletic Terrassa 2.

EUROPEAN MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP B DIVISION (Brasschaat), Fifth to eighth matches: Whitchurch (Wal) 3 Partille (Swe) 3 (Partille won 4-3 aps); Olimpic Vinnitsa (Ukr) 4 WAC (Aut) 1. Third to fourth *match:* Eagles (Gib) 1 Samara (Rus) 2. Final: Reading 5 Dragons (Bel) 2.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S CUP-WINNERS' CUP A DIVISION (Leuven) Final Day. Fifth to eighth matches: Leuven (Bel) 1 Moskva Pravda (Rus) 4; Hermes (Irl) 1 Hightown 4. Third to fourth match: Bona Grass Grove (Sco) 1 Berliner 3. Final: Amsterdam 6 Dinamo Sumy (Ukr) 2.

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Southgate) Classification matches: Doncharka Volgodonsk (Rus) 2 Real Sociedad (Sp) 2 (Doncharka won 4-3 aps); Kolos Borispol (Ukr) 4 Lorenzoni (It) 0. Third Place: HGC (Ned) 4 Edinburgh 1. Final: Russelsheimer (Germany) 1 Slough 1 (*Russelsheimer won 3-2 aps*).

FOUR NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENTS (Milton Keynes) *Boys U-18:* England 4 Spain 4; Scotland 5 Netherlands 2; France 4 Germany 2. Boys U16: France 2 Netherlands 2; Spain 10 Scotland 1; Germany 3 England 2. Girls U18: England 3 Scotland 0; Netherlands 2 Germany 1; Spain 4 France 3. Girls U16: Netherlands 1 Germany 1; Spain 3 France 0; England 2 Scotland 0.

Motorcycling

WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP (Donington Park) British round: Race One (25 laps; 62.5 miles): 1 N Haga (Japan) *Yamaha 39min 41.163sec;* 2 T *Corser* (Aus) Ducati 39:45.183; 3 P-F Chili (It) Ducati 39:51.32; 4 A Slight (NZ) Honda 39:51.672; 5 A Yanagawa (Japan) Kawasaki 39:56.972; 6 C Edwards (US) Honda 39:59.008. British placings: 7 C Fogarty Ducati; 8 J Whitham Suzuki; 10 S Hislop Yamaha; 11 C Walker Kawasaki; 12 N Hodgson Kawasaki; 15 J Haydon Suzuki; 16 T Rymer Suzuki; 17 I Simpson Honda; 20 J Robinson Ducati. Fastest race lap: Haga 1m 34.560s. Race Two (decided on aggregate times, after stoppage, result over 25 laps): 1 Haga 39:35.544; 2 Corser 39:37.068; 3 C Fogarty (GB) Ducati 39:43.758; 4 Slight 39:50.569; 5 Chili 39:54.302; 6 N Mackenzie (GB) Yamaha 39:54.797. British positions: 8 Whitham, 9 Hislop, 12 Walker, 14 Haydon, 15 Rymer, 18 Simpson, 21 Robinson. Fastest race lap: Haga 1:33.880. Championship points: Haga 91, Corser 70, Fogarty 66, Slight 53.

ACU F2 SIDECAR ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIP (Oulton Park) Round one; 8 laps: 1 R *Fisher and R Long (Yamaha)* 14 min 2.6sec (94.84mph); 2 T Hanks & S Wilson (Yamaha) 14:13 (93.49mph); 3 G Horspole and K Leigh (Honda) 14:14.3 (93.35mph). Fastest lap: R Fisher and R Long (Yamaha) 1:43.9 95.94 mph (new lap record).

Motor racing

AUTO TRADER BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP (Thruxton) Sprint Race, Round one (16 laps): 1 R Rydell (Swe) Volvo +0.000secs; 2 J Plato (GB) Williams Renault +1.037; 3 J Thompson (Gbr) Honda +1.826; 4 J Cleland (GB) Vauxhall +6.829; 5 A Menu (Swit) Williams Renault +7.645; 6 G Morbidelli (It) Volvo +10.025; 7 D Leslie (Gbr) Nissan +19.339; 8 A Reid (GB) Nissan +21.839; 9 Y Muller (Fr) Audi +22.819; 10 P Kox (Neth) Honda +23.543. *Fastest lap:* Rydell 1:17.620. Feature Race, Round two (32 laps): 1 A Menu (Swit) Williams Renault +0.000; 2 R Rydell (Swe) Volvo +2.600; 3 J Thompson (GB) Honda +40.510; 4 J Plato (GB) Williams Renault +42.990; 5 D Warwick (GB) Vauxhall +46.893; 6 J Cleland (Gbr) Vauxhall +48.529; 7 P Kox (Neth) Honda +50.337; 8 P Radisch (NZ) Peugeot +105.265; 9 J Bintcliffe (GB) Audi +113.153; 10 M Neal (GB) Nissan Primera 1 Lap. Fastest: Menu 1:17.401.

Ice hockey

NHL: Florida 5 New Jersey 5 (tie); Phoenix 2 Chicago 1; Dallas 4 St Louis 3.

Rugby League

SECOND DIVISION Batley (12) 25 York (7) 11. Batley: Tries Gleadhill 2, Barnett, Simpson; Goals: Price 4; Drop Goal Cass. York: Tries Moore 2. Goals Precious; Drop Goal Brook. (745)

Lancashire Lynx (12) 20 Barrow (20) 20. Lancashire Lynx: Tries Parsley 2, Kelly. Goals P Jones 4. Barrow: Tries Carter, Halsall, McMillan, Ruddy. Goals Marwood 2 (721).

Workington (14) 18, Oldham (4) 22. Workington: Tries Fisher, Mafi, Riley. Goals Fisher 3. Oldham: Tries Darkes, Edwards, Flanagan, Leula, Round; Goal Cooper (1,344).

Rugby Union

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE Richmond (15) 32 Bath (14) 14

Speedway

PREMIER LEAGUE: Exeter 55 (M Coles 11, M Simmonds 10). Reading 34 (L Richardson 13, P Kokkoo 10, D Mullett 10).

Tennis

JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo): Men's singles first round: S Stolle (Aus) bt T Suzuki (Japan) 6-2 6-3; D Prinosil (Ger) bt M Sell (US) 6-2 6-1; J-M Gambill (US) bt S Pescosolido (It) 6-3 6-2; R Schuttler (Ger) bt C Vinck (Ger) 6-4 3-6 6-3; D Delucia (US) bt D Wheaton (US) 6-3 3-6 6-3; B Meconne (US) bt K Flygt (Swe) 7-6 (7-2) 6-4; J van Lottum (Ned) bt H Kaneko (Japan) 6-4 0-6 7-5. Women's singles first round: Y Yoshida (Japan) bt N Kijimuta (Japan) 6-1 4-6 6-1; G Nielsen *(US) bt M Saeki (Japan 7-6 (7-5) 6-2;* (3) T Tanasugarn (Thai) bt Kim Eun-ha (Kor) 4-6 7-5 6-0; M Shaughnessy (US) bt Janet Lee (Tpe) 3-6 6-2; 6-4. Women's doubles First round: S Asagoe (Japan) and Park Sunghee (Kor) *bt H Inoue and M Inoue (Japan)* 6-2 6-4; K Kunce (Aus) and C Morariu (US) bt G Biggs (Aus) and T Hotta (Japan) 6-2 5-7 6-4.

LEADING ATP MEN'S TENNIS RANKINGS: 1 M Rios (Chi) 3645; 2 P Sampras (US) 3600; 3 P Korda (Cz Rep) 3443; 4 P Rafter (Aus) 3254; 5 G Rusedski (GB) 3094; 6 Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 3027; 7 J Bjork*man (Swe) 2663; 8 A Corretja (Sp) 2523;* 9 R Krajicek (Neth) 2308, 10 G Kuerten (Bra) 2262. Others: 152 A Richardson (GB) 300; 167 C Wilkinson (GB) 272; 197 M Petchey (Gbr) 209; 231 D Sapsford (GB) 173; 261 M Lee (GB) 148; 310 B Cowan (GB) 122; 350 M Maclagan (Gbr) 102; 357 L Milligan *(Gbr) 94; 399 N Gould (GB) 79,* 407 A Parmar (GB) 77.

WTA RANKINGS: 1 M Hingis (Swit) $930,779; 2 L Davenport (US) $507,100; 3 V Williams (US) $419,050; 4 C Martinez (Sp) $345,636; 5 A Coetzer (SA) $275,769; 6 M Pierce (Fr) $229,667; 7 A Kournikova (Rus) $223,440; 8 J Novotna (Czr) $221,997; 9 A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) $209,838; 10 N Zvereva (Belarus) $180,303; 11 P Schnyder (Swi) $176,053; 12 A Huber (Ger) $169,277; 13 M Lucic (Cro) $148,770; 14 D Van Roost (Belg) $146,252; 15 Ai Sugiyama (Jap) $140,769; 16 L Raymond (US) $127,554; 17 I Spirlea (Rom) $116,938; *18 I Majoli (Cro) $105,640;* 19 N Tauziat (Fr) $102,115; 20 S Testud (Fr) $101,787.

ON SATURDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 11/4/98. The winning numbers: **7, 10, 31, 35, 43, 44.** Bonus number: **37.**
Total Sales: £58,579,687. Prize Fund: £26,360,859 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£8,235,083	£8,235,083
Match 5 plus bonus ball	9	£281,541	£2,533,869
Match 5	825	£1,919	£1,583,175
Match 4	53,055	£65	£3,448,575
Match 3	1,052,416	£10	£10,524,160
TOTALS	1,106,306		£26,324,862

Total Sales including Instants and Wednesday Draw: £101,678,579.
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £27,400,000.
Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £35,997
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IT COULD BE YOU THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail

FA Carling Premiership: Polished Gunners move to within a point of Manchester United at the top with two games still in hand

Arsenal lit up by Bergkamp's return

By Guy Hodgson

Blackburn Rovers	1
Arsenal	4

ALEX FERGUSON'S hope that the proximity of the glittering prize might expose the raw nerve in Manchester United's closest rivals came to nothing last night. Instead of being edgy Arsenal were glorious and they appeared to have build an unstoppable momentum towards the Premiership title.

Nerves? If this is how Arsenal play when they are under pressure, then the remains of the season should be explosive.

They devastated Blackburn last night scoring through Dennis Bergkamp, Ray Parlour (twice) and Nicolas Anelka to move a point behind the leaders United with two games in hand.

Blackburn's reply, through Kevin Gallacher, was such a consolation it also had "booby prize" attached to it. They were completely overwhelmed.

Blackburn beat Arsenal at Highbury in December, the low tidemark for the Gunners according to their manager, Arsène Wenger, but a catbartic moment. "It was our fourth defeat in six games," he said. "And mentally we were very low. But we all got together and resolved to fight and not allow the absence of individual players to affect us, even subconsciously."

The fact it was the last match they lost in the Premiership underlines their sense of purpose since.

Last night it was the presence of a player rather than his absence that was pertinent, Bergkamp returning after a suspension and lining up alongside Anelka in what was the visitors' only change from Saturday.

And what a change. Within 13 minutes the Dutchman had scored a goal and made two others putting the match beyond the reach of hapless Blackburn, whose Uefa Cup aspirations are crumbling by the day. Seven points out of a last potential 30 is making it a sorry spring at Ewood Park.

Crumbling was an apposite word because Blackburn disintegrated in front of the enterprise, running and sheer verve of Arsenal who scarcely put a foot wrong.

The Gunners were exhilarating, Rovers pathetic.

At the centre of everything was Bergkamp who was incandescent last night. There is a simplicity about him in that he rarely uses his extravagant skills in a self-indulgent way. If he has to be fêted he will be as he illustrated when opening the scoring in the second minute.

Colin Hendry and Stéphane Henchoz rose with Anelka to meet a throw-in on the right and if anyone got a touch it was probably a Blackburn defender.

No matter, two players going for the same ball gave Bergkamp space on the right and he exploited it beautifully, racing into the area and beating Alan Fettis with a low shot to the far post.

After six minutes it was 2-0, Bergkamp becoming the provider. Blackburn's rearguard, understandably, were preoccupied with the Dutchman and they completely neglected Parlour's run into their area and a delicious pass put him clear.

Fettis got his hands to another shot across him, but his work merely diverted the ball down into the ground and into the net.

Anelka went close with a chip two minutes later and Marc Overmars caused mayhem with a low, driven cross from the left. If this had been a boxing bout, the referee would have stepped in. Instead, Bergkamp landed another blow.

Emmanuel Petit played a corner to him and his thumping half-volley crashed into Fettis's chest and bounced straight to Parlour. Yet again, there was no Blackburn defender near him and he could take his time before shooting into the roof of the net.

It seemed things could not get worse for Blackburn but they did four minutes before half-time. Nigel Winterburn played a 40-yard pass straight through the middle of the home defence and Anelka charged through it, went round Fettis and passed the ball into the net.

The second half, played in a blizzard, took on the atmosphere of a practice match which showed Blackburn in a better light; it had to. Arsenal's concentration faltered momentarily to allow Gallacher to steal a goal after 50 minutes.

By then the match had long since been Arsenal's and the championship will surely follow.

Blackburn Rovers: (4-4-2) Fettis; Kenna, Henchoz, Hendry, Davidson (Valery, 57); Flitcroft, Sherwood, McKinley (Ripley, 78), Wilcox; Gallacher, Dahlin (Beattie, 78). Substitutes not used: Broomes, Filan (gk).

Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Garde, Bould, Adams, Winterburn; Parlour, Vieira, Petit, Overmars (Hughes, 87); Anelka (Platt, 88), Bergkamp. Substitutes not used: Wreh, Crowe, Manninger (gk).

Referee: M Bodenham (Ferring).

Ray Parlour fires in his second goal and Arsenal's third against Blackburn as the Londoners take an early stranglehold at Ewood Park last night Photograph: Allsport

Race for the title

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	34	20	7	7	64	25	67
Arsenal	32	19	9	4	56	28	66

Remaining fixtures

Manchester United: 18 Apr Newcastle (H); 27 Apr C Palace (A); 4 May Leeds (H); 10 May Barnsley (A).

Arsenal: 18 Apr Wimbledon (H); 25 Apr Barnsley (A); 29 Apr Derby (H); 2 May Everton (H); 6 May Liverpool (A); 10 May Aston Villa (A).

Priceless Shearer comes to Newcastle's rescue again

By Ian Potts

Newcastle United	2
Barnsley	1

ALAN SHEARER has proved his worth many times since his £15m homecoming to Tyneside, but this latest contribution to the Newcastle cause yesterday might just be his most priceless yet.

The England captain's first Premiership goal in open play this season came five minutes from the end of a joyless, angst-ridden affair between the team everyone tipped for the drop and the one many had marked down the title.

With five games left – albeit four of them away – this victory should safeguard United's position among the élite. For Barnsley, however, the Nationwide League beckons once again.

Not since the post-Ardiles days, when Kevin Keegan was lured away from his beach hut on Marbella to rescue Newcastle from the old Third Division, had St James' Park been the setting for a relegation encounter.

All of 39 minutes had elapsed before either side found the target. Dave Watson beating aside a low drive from the Newcastle captain, Robert Lee. Having got a taste for it the home team went in front 60 seconds later with Shearer inadvertently the provider.

Stuart Pearce's cross from the left for once found Newcastle's No 9 with yards to spare, but as the crowd rose in anticipation Shearer's shot bounced down off the underside of the bar. Barnsley's respite was brief – Swedish striker Andreas Andersson – was on hand to head into the gaping net, finally breaking his duck in England after 10 goalless outings.

Having shown such little attacking initiative in the opening period, Danny Wilson demanded a change of approach from his side, and was rewarded almost immediately after the restart. Ashley Ward spun through 180 degrees to create space in a congested Newcastle penalty area, but his weak shot on the turn should not unduly have troubled Shay Given. Yet, somehow it bobbled beneath the Irishman's dive, and Jan-Aage Fjortoft slid in at the far post to finish the job.

It also finished off the Norwegian for the afternoon, his ribcage having rattled the woodwork in the act of scoring.

Suddenly, Barnsley sensed the game was there to be won. More than 36,000 others felt the same, as every wayward Newcastle pass drew a chorus of groans from the increasingly frustrated home fans.

Shearer remained as eager as ever, but needed an Alan Shearer alongside him. Too often his best work was done outside the box, the clever flicks and intelligent touches falling in no man's land.

With 13 minutes left, the supporters were once again questioning the tactical nous of the manager, Kenny Dalglish, as he withdrew goal scorer Andersson and sent on defender Steve Watson. Gary Speed moving up front in the reshuffle.

But with time running short, the decisive strike came from a familiar source. The referee, Steve Dunn, played his part, having the foresight to allow advantage after a surging run by the Greek, Nikos Dabizas, had been abruptly halted by a lunging tackle from Barnsley's Scott Jones.

The ball broke loose to Lee, whose deep cross from the right was deftly looped back over Watson by Shearer, peeling away towards the back post. It was a rare moment of quality in an afternoon of unremitting anxiety.

There still remains the fear on Tyneside that Newcastle could become only the fifth team to achieve the dubious double of an FA Cup final appearance and relegation in the same season, following Middlesbrough's lead last year. Worse still, that both Boro and Sunderland may yet pass them on their way up.

"The buck stops with me," Dalglish admitted. "It's my job to help the players win matches, and the simple truth is that – so far at least – we haven't won enough of them in the Premiership this season."

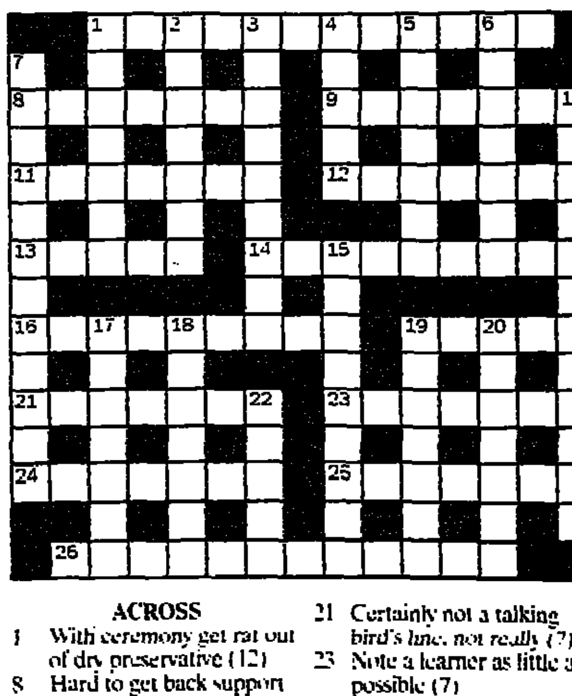
Newcastle United (4-4-2) Given; Barton Dabizas, Albert, Pearce; Gillespie (Ketsbaia, 57), Lee, Batty, Speed; Andersson (Watson, 78), Shearer. Substitutes not used: Hislop (gk) Barnes, Tomasson.

Barnsley (4-4-2): Watson; Eaden, De Zeeuw, Moses, Jones; Bullock (Marcelle, 87), Redfearn, Bosancic, Krizan (Tinkler, 45); Ward, Fjortoft. Substitutes not used: Hendrie, Leese, Hristov.

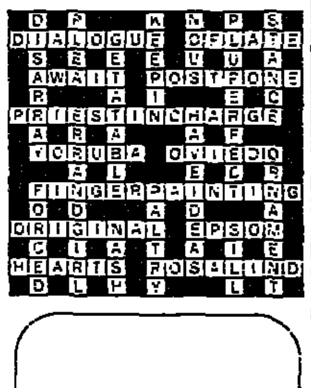
Referee: Steve Dunn (Bristol).

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3584, Tuesday 14 April — By Aelred



Monday's Solution



ACROSS

1 With ceremony get rat out of dry preservative (12)
8 Hard to get back support for us to shelter (7)
9 To spoil shape of fancy hat is what leads to hostility (7)
11 Intent on using this for sleeping? (4,3)
12 One in duty list is to celebrate wildly (7)
13 Natural light is filtering back into cavity (5)
14 Circle's grim to a smaller extent and without sense of smell (9)
16 Job description by fashionable person attending hospital (2-7)
19 A blow to circle's enthusiasm (5)
21 Certainly not a talking bird's line, not really (7)
23 Note a learner as little as possible (7)
24 Study gallery, able to get your teeth into things? (7)
25 Duo sounds excessive to a number (7)
26 Academic solution to editing Sayers takes ages (7,5)

DOWN

1 Sack person who's in brigade (7)
2 Figure constructed by doctor in impossible hours (7)
3 Possibly adore capital city which one can fly to (9)
4 Old wife in the German marriage payment (5)
5 Girl doesn't have time to run for athlete (7)
6 US conscript in crude boat in UK river (7)
7 Hic might suggest one's insensitive (5-7)
10 Not suitable for the broken-down motorist to cry on? (4,8)
15 It's said I study (9)
17 Horse running round me is hot stuff (7)
18 It could fix faint colour taken on a by a heartless cook (3-4)
19 Could be gold on a Venetian boat (7)
20 Call for amount spent on FWW battle (7)
22 Sly slippery customer rejected by railway (5)

Dublin pounces as Spurs fail to capitalise on superiority

By Clive White

Tottenham Hotspur	1
Coventry City	1

FOUR minutes from time, the White Hart Lane crowd were preparing to rise to Nicola Berti as their match winner and possibly Premiership saviour when all too characteristically they dropped their guard and were punished by a team who should have been flat on their back at the time.

That was not just Spurs' manager Christian Gross's biased view but quite clearly also that of his opposite number, although Gordon Strachan stopped just short of saying as much. "Anyone aware of our recent record must have been wondering whether we've been playing in the Highland League these last four months but I can assure them that we haven't and we haven't been as bad as that."

Tottenham should have been going to Barnsley next Saturday with a comfortable four point lead over their Yorkshire rivals. Instead it is only two and that match now takes on a frightening importance for all concerned.

After an indifferent first half yesterday, when only David Ginola's mazy runs offered any hope of an early breakthrough, Spurs finally found a rhythm and purpose which might have produced three headed goals for the previously ineffectual Jürgen Klinsmann before they eventually struck.

David Ginola's corner in the 65th minute was perfectly delivered but the ease with which Berti scored with his header suggested there must have been one or two culprits in sky blue and navy shirts. But Strachan conceded: "Sometimes when the balls is delivered as beautifully as that and someone can leap as good as that, well..."

Almost immediately Klinsmann went desperately close from a free kick and then Les Ferdinand, introduced as a second-half substitute, skimmed the bar with a backward arching header. When the match-winner-in-waiting made a match-saving tackle on Noel Whelan with six minutes remaining, the Tottenham crowd were ready to hail him as truly one of their own.

Two minutes later it must have seemed that their world had collapsed. A Roland Nilsson throw-in was flicked on by Dublin to Darren Huckerby, a second-half substitute. And when he controlled the ball neatly on his chest to release it to his captain there was not a Spurs defender in sight to prevent him slotting home the equaliser. "It was the only thing he did all day," said Strachan.

Indeed Tottenham might have gone ahead as early as the seventh minute when Ginola cleverly worked room for a cross which Ramon Vega headed against the bar and Ruel Fox, following up, just failed to connect from the rebound. Otherwise, the Swiss defender spent much of the time conceding possession in a nervous first half. Tottenham's defensive vulnerability remains a real worry in these closing weeks.

Strachan's association with Coventry may go back just a fraction of their 31 years of tightrope walking but he recognised survival qualities in the opposition. "You've got to commend them for their spirit," he said. "They're working hard and at times, believe it or not, they're a good, ordinary hard-working team - and that's not being derogatory. We've been there and understand what they're going through."

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Vega, Campbell, Nielsen; Fox, Saib (Calderwood, 5), Berti, Ginola, Klinsmann, Armstrong (Ferdinand 55). Substitutes not used: Anderson, Scales, Grodas (gk)

Coventry City: (4-4-2): Ogrizovic; Nilsson, Shaw, Breen, Burrows; Telfer, Strachan (Bolan 73), Whelan, Hall (Soltvedt 65); Moldovan (Huckerby 61), Dublin. Substitutes not used: Williams, Hedman (gk).

Referee: M Riley (West Yorkshire).

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